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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: Effective 30 November, and until further notice, the DAILY REPORT will cease publishing the "Front Page" feature.

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Islamic Affairs

OIC Ministers Continue Meeting on Bosnia 1
Final Communique Issued *[Tehran Radio]* 1
Owais, Vance Oppose Ending Embargo *[MENA]* 1
Iran Proposes Deadlines for Serbs *[Tehran Radio]* 1
Kuwait Urges End to Weapons Ban *[KUNA]* 2
Al-Shar' Meets Musa, Velayati *[SANA]* 2
Velayati Meets Croatian Minister *[IRNA]* 2
Velayati Meets Alliyevich *[Tehran Radio]* 2
Syria's al-Shar' on Bosnia, Somalia, Peace *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 2
Turkish Minister Comments on Nicosia Airport *[Ankara TV]* 4

Palestinian Affairs

'Ashrawi, Others Comment on Israeli PLO Ban *[AFP]* 4
Leaders on Peace Process, Next Round of Talks 5
'Arafat Interview on Peace Talks *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 30 Nov]* 5
Al-Husayni: No Decision Yet *[Tunis Radio]* 8
'Abd-Rabbuh Urges Postponement *[Algiers VOP]* 8
Results of Poll on Peace Process Published *[AL-FAJR 1 Dec]* 8
'Arafat Confers With Iraqi Envoy in Tunisia 2 Dec *[INA]* 9
Factions Urge Strike, Denounce Peace Talks *[Al-Quds Radio]* 9

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Curfew Announced in 7 Provinces Starting 5 Dec *[Algiers TV]* 10
Official on Reasons for Curfew *[Algiers Radio]* 10
Murder Attempt Said Not Linked To Unrest *[Algiers TV]* 10

Egypt

'Terrorist Organization' Members Sentenced to Death *[MENA]* 11
Government To Send Peacekeeping Force to Somalia *[MENA]* 11
U.S., UN Reactions to Somalian Crisis Questioned *[AL-AHRAM 30 Nov]* 11
Government Protests Christ's Stay in U.S. *[AFP]* 11
Christ's Scandalous Sought *[AL-AHRAR 30 Nov]* 12
Paper Calls U.S. Policy on Terrorism 'Hypocrisy' *[AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY]* 12
Mikhaylik Writes al-Qalyubiyah on 'Western Crisis' *[MENA]* 12
Iran Rushing 'Haste' Foreign Media Campaign *[MENA]* 13
Paper Views Syrian Offer To 'Mediate' With Iran *[AL-SHAB 29 Nov]* 13
Israel Said To Ask for Mediation With Syria *[AL-WAFD 29 Nov]* 14
State Wants To Prevent More Sanctions on Libya *[AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY]* 14
Security Services Capture 'Terrorists' *[AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY]* 14
Nimir Sees To Secure Border With Sudan *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 30 Nov]* 15

Prime Minister Discusses Economic Measures, Reform *[MENA]* 15
7,000 Said Arrested After Attack on Tourists *[MISR AL-FATAH 30 Nov]* 16
Mubarak Returns From Jeddah ICO Meeting *[MENA]* 16
Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman on 'Corrupt' Mubarak Regime *[Tehran TV]* 16

Mauritania

President Delivers Address on National Day *[Nouakchott Radio]* 16

Morocco

General Elections Scheduled For 30 Apr 1993 *[Rabat TV]* 18

Sudan

Reaction to Troop Deployment in Somalia Reported 18
Foreign Minister Questions Act *[SUNA]* 18
U.S. Intervention Viewed *[Omdurman Radio]* 18
Action Will Postpone Solution *[Omdurman Radio]* 19
Judiciary Head Says No Iranian Forces in Sudan *[SUNA]* 19
Senior Official in Garang Faction Defects *[London International]* 19

IRAQ

Saddam Receives Dhi Qar Group, Promises Firearms *[INA]* 21
Saddam Decorates Men for Confronting 'Infiltrators' *[Baghdad Radio]* 21
1 Killed, 17 Injured in al-Sulaymaniyah Explosion *[Voice of Kurdistan]* 21
Regime Storms Marshlands, Arrests Women *[Voice of Iraqi People]* 21
U.S. Said Trying To Dominate Somalia Region *[INA]* 22
UN Envoy Calls US Policy 'Double Standard' *[INA]* 22
UN Informed of Kuwaiti 'Violations' in Zone *[INA]* 22

ISRAEL

Knesset Approves First Reading of PLO Bill *[Jerusalem TV]* 23
'Abd-al-Shafi Comments on Bill *[DAVAR 3 Dec]* 23
Palestinian Sources Welcome Action *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 23
Abu-Sharif Interviewed on Vote *[HA'ARETZ 2 Dec]* 23
Palestinian Self-Government Plans Detailed *[HA'ARETZ 2 Dec]* 24
Peres Reportedly Met Tunisian Counterpart *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 2 Dec]* 25
Foreign Minister Peres Visits Austria *[cross-reference]* 26
Shamir Undergoes 'Successful' Intestinal Surgery *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
German Ambassador Urges Continued Dialogue *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Moroccan King Praised for Humanitarian Gesture *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Hundreds of Hamas Activists Detained in West Bank *[HA'ARETZ 3 Dec]* 26

JORDAN

King Hussayn Interviewed on Iraq, Health Condition *[Amman Radio]* 27
New Gun Licensing Laws Introduced *[JORDAN TIMES 1 Dec]* 27
Paper Questions Intentions Behind Jeddah Meeting *[AL-RA'Y 1 Dec]* 27
Israeli, Kuwaiti Racism Against Palestinians Seen *[AL-RA'Y 30 Nov]* 28
Amman Radio Assails 'Hireling' Kuwait Media 29
Bank Involvement in Laundering Drug Money Denied *[AL-ASWAQ 2-8 Dec]* 29
Prime Minister Meets With Palestinian Negotiators *[Amman Radio]* 30
Prince Hasan Returns From Working Visit to UK *[Amman TV]* 30
'New Stage' in U.S.-European Relations Seen *[AL-RA'Y 29 Nov]* 30
French-Language Transmission Over Radio Begins *[Amman Radio]* 30

LEBANON

'Awa Supporters Said Arrested for Leaflets *[AFP]* 31
Army Issues Statement on Arrests *[Beirut Radio]* 31
Bureys on Complaints Against Hizballah in South *[VOL]* 31
Radio Reports More Israeli-Resistance Skirmishes *[Beirut Radio]* 31
Villages Shelled; Mechanized Movements Observed *[Beirut Radio]* 32

SOUTH ASIA

India

Uttar Pradesh Government Issues Ayodhya Statement *[Delhi Radio]* 33
Minister Speaks in Lok Sabha on Ayodhya Issue *[Delhi Radio]* 33
Muslims Flee Ayodhya as Tension Mounts *[AFP]* 33
Differences With U.S. on Nuclear Issue Noted *[Delhi Radio]* 34
Bush Termed 'Imperial President' for Remarks *[PATRIOT 23 Nov]* 34
Paper Says Kerala Situation Nearing 'Flashpoint' *[INDIAN EXPRESS 26 Nov]* 35
Review of Defense Decision-Making Called For *[INDIAN EXPRESS 25 Nov]* 35

Iran

U.S. Said Targeting Technology Transfer to Iran *[SALAM 23 Nov]* 36
West Seeks 'Rift' Between Iran, Others *[ETTELA'AT 19 Nov]* 37
President Rafsanjani Visits Yazd Province *[Tehran Radio]* 37
Foreign Reporters Invited To Visit Prisons *[Tehran Radio]* 38
Muslim States Should Offer Arms to Bosnians *[IRNA]* 38
Regional Security Needs No 'Foreign Intervention' *[JAHAN-E ESLAM 22 Nov]* 38
Differences Seen in Ties With Saudi Arabia, Egypt *[IRNA]* 39
Port of Abadan To Become Operational 11 Feb 1993 *[IRNA]* 40
Government Considering Cable TV Networks *[IRNA]* 40
Satellite Ground Station Becomes Operational *[Tehran Radio]* 40

Pakistan

Spokesman on India, Rights, Nuclear Issues *[Islamabad Radio]* 40
UN Urged To Help End Genocide of Kashmiris *[Islamabad TV]* 41
Ambassador Meets U.S. Senator Over Letter *[Islamabad Radio]* 41
Bhutto, Sharif Resume Campaigns *[AFP]* 41
President Accused of Bias Against PPP *[THE MUSLIM 3 Dec]* 42

Islamic Affairs

ICO Ministers Continue Meeting on Bosnia

Final Communique Issued

NC0312064692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] The 50 members of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] have called on the United Nations to take military steps to end the Serbs' crimes in Bosnia-Hercegovina. The final communique issued at the end of the two-day conference of the ICO foreign ministers refers to the duties envisaged for the United Nations in Article 42 of Chapter 7 of the UN Charter and stresses that the United Nations should resort to military action against Serbia and Montenegro.

The statement calls on the Security Council to end the arms embargo on Bosnia-Hercegovina and to grant the Muslims in that country the possibility of defending themselves. The ICO members have also expressed their readiness to assist the Muslims in Bosnia- Hercegovina and to defend the republic.

The ICO foreign ministerial session, which convened in Jeddah at Iran's request to study the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina, ended its work this morning.

Owen, Vance Oppose Ending Embargo

NC0312065892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2319 GMT 2 Nov 92

[Text] Jeddah, 2 Dec (MENA)—Sources close to the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Islamic states currently meeting in Jeddah have stated that a major difference in viewpoints has arisen between international mediators Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen and the Islamic foreign ministers participating in the conference. The sources pointed out that the difference concerns the foreign ministers' proposal to lift the arms embargo imposed by the Security Council on Bosnia-Hercegovina. The two international mediators believe that lifting the embargo is a serious action that could further deepen the conflict and spread it to other parts of Yugoslavia. They say that if implemented, it would be difficult to control the quantity of weapons flowing into the region, which would not be in Bosnia's interest.

Iran Proposes Deadline for Serbs

NC0312000392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] Iran has called on members of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] to declare an ultimatum to the UN Security Council and—as the last warning to the Serbs—to set 31 December as the deadline for ending the massacre of the Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina. At yesterday's extraordinary session of the foreign ministers of the 47 ICO members, Foreign Minister Velayati said that if by this date the Serbs do not stop their crimes and aggression, Muslim countries should deploy all their potential to confront them.

The foreign minister described the Serbs' activities and said: Massacring Muslims, attacking their dignity, expelling them, confiscating their property, and destroying residential areas are all manifestations of a concerted effort aimed at destroying Islam and establishing the grounds for the formation of an Islamic government in Europe.

Velayati then lauded Iran's efforts to help the Muslim nation of Bosnia-Hercegovina and added: Each one of us has extended assistance on our own, but we should put our material and humanitarian resources together and rush to the aid of the Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina in an organized way. He said: Among the Muslim nations there are many volunteer forces that are ready to give their lives and property for the Muslims' salvation, and we should respond to this readiness positively.

The foreign ministerial session of the 47 ICO members opened in Jeddah yesterday to study the Bosnia-Hercegovina crisis and the situation of the defenseless Muslims there.

To end the Serbs' aggression in Bosnia-Hercegovina, the foreign minister proposed that after the deadline proposed by Iran—31 December—all the potential of the Islamic countries be mobilized to help the Bosnian Government and that the ICO members be extended the necessary facilities for dispatching volunteer forces from Islamic countries to Bosnia.

The foreign minister said the occupied territories should be returned to the Muslims and the Serbs should be tried by an international court as war criminals. Velayati proposed that a fund called the Fund for Assisting the Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina be formed and warned: If assistance is not received, some 400,000 human beings in Bosnia-Hercegovina will die of hunger, sickness, and cold this winter.

Velayati also assessed the behavior of the Western countries and of the United Nations vis-a-vis the Bosnia-Hercegovina problem. He said: The negligence shown by some Western countries in their approach to the Serbs has paved the way for prolonging the battles and for the homelessness of more than 2 million Muslims. The foreign minister stated: The Serbs are trampling on all UN resolutions. The Security Council is not displaying any serious reaction, while the Security Council members should, to preserve their credibility, lift the arms sanctions on Bosnia-Hercegovina and allow the Muslims to defend themselves. Velayati said: Considering time in decisionmaking is extremely vital and determining.

The foreign minister mentioned his recent visit to Croatia and, criticizing the United Nations, he said: Despite my announcements of readiness and the wish of

the Bosnia-Hercegovina president, UN forces did not extend facilities for my flight to Sarajevo.

Kuwait Urges End to Weapons Ban

LD0212194692 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1555 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 2 Dec (KUNA)—Kuwait today called on the Islamic states to urge the UN Security Council to lift the embargo imposed on defensive weapons to the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina to enable it to push back the Serbian aggression against its territory.

Jasim al-'Awa, Kuwaiti minister of social affairs and labor and head of the Kuwaiti delegation to the Islamic Conference Organization emergency session, said the United Nations must be urged to ensure an effective presence in the area of fighting, offer various forms of aid to the people subjected to shelling and destruction, adopt a resolution on an immediate cease-fire, and condemn the criminal acts committed by the Serbs.

In a speech he made at the second closed session held this evening, the Kuwaiti minister urged the Islamic states to take resolutions and crucial measures to save the Bosnian people. These would include condemning the barbaric acts, calling for the application of harsher and more effective sanctions against the Serbs, imposing an economic and air blockade on Serbia, and preventing the entry of military supplies to Serbia with an effective military presence.

He indicated the Serbian troops must be forced to withdraw from all the territory that they are occupying in the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina and that they should not be allowed to make territorial gains with the use of force. [passage omitted]

Al-Shar' Meets Musa, Velayati

JN0312183992 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] Damascus [as received], 2 Dec (SANA)—On the sidelines of the emergency meeting of the Islamic Conference Organization foreign ministers, [Syrian] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received successively at noon today Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

During the meetings, discussions dealt with the situation in the region and issues of mutual concern.

Velayati Meets Croatian Minister

LD0112101192 Tehran IRNA in English 1436 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 1, IRNA—The foreign minister of Croatia, meeting with his Iranian counterpart in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, Tuesday [1 December] categorically denied that his country was seeking disintegration of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

"We were among the first countries to recognize independence of the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina," the Croatian foreign minister told 'Ali Akbar Velayati on the sidelines of an extraordinary ministerial meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

He said 23 percent of Croatian territory is under occupation of the Serbian forces and called on the world community to take serious measures against such a "dangerous" act.

Both foreign ministers also expressed satisfaction with the growing relations between Tehran and Zagreb and called for exchange of delegations between the two sides.

Velayati Meets Albanian President

LD0312092092 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] Albanian President Sali Berisha met with the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign affairs minister in Jeddah on Wednesday and expressed concern that the situation in Kosovo and Macedonia might become similar to that in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

In the course of the meeting, the Albanian president welcomed the expansion of cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran in all fields. During that meeting, our country's foreign affairs minister also announced the readiness of the Islamic Republic of Iran to have further cooperation with that country.

On Wednesday, our country's Foreign Affairs Minister Velayati also met with the Syrian Foreign Affairs Minister Faruq al-Shar', discussing the critical situation of the Muslim people of Bosnia-Hercegovina. In the course of the meeting, which took place on the sidelines of the session of the Islamic Conference Organization member countries in Jeddah, regional and bilateral issues were also discussed.

Mr. Velayati also met with the Indonesian Foreign Affairs Minister Ali Alatas on Wednesday evening. During the meeting, the Indonesian foreign minister referred to the suggestion made last month by our country's foreign minister that a special session of the Nonaligned Movement [NAM] be held to discuss the issue of Bosnia-Hercegovina and announced that Indonesia, as the chairman of the NAM, is holding talks with members of that movement about the suggestion of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Syria's al-Shar' on Bosnia, Somalia, Peace

JN0212192192 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1743 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Interview with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' by Salah Salamah in Jeddah on 2 December—recorded]

[Text] [Salamah] Your Excellency Faruq al-Shar', Syrian foreign minister, you are now participating in the Islamic

Conference Organization [ICO] meeting in Jeddah. The conference is primarily discussing the question of the continued Serbian aggression in Bosnia-Hercegovina. Is there an Arab consensus within the ICO to send international forces to that region?

[Al-Shar'] There is an Arab consensus, but not for the dispatch of forces. The Arab consensus is to ascertain that the UN resolutions on the situation in Yugoslavia are meticulously implemented. This implementation should take into consideration the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina. This is so because while there is a ban on the export of weapons to Yugoslavia, that country can still produce its own weapons while Bosnia-Hercegovina has no such plants. Therefore, its people have no weapons and are defenseless. From this premise, the deliberations have revolved around two options: Either to meticulously abide by the UN resolution, including the inspection of the production of weapons and ammunition, or to seek some way to lift the weapons embargo imposed on the people of Bosnia- Hercegovina.

[Salamah] There was an explicit Saudi invitation to send weapons to Bosnia-Hercegovina, specifically defensive weapons. Can there be a direct Arab role in implementing this proposal?

[Al-Shar'] You know that the current problem in what used to be known as Yugoslavia is very complicated. Syria has had a very explicit stand on this problem since the beginning, because Yugoslavia had played an important role in the Nonaligned Movement and Syria did not want or wish to see it dismembered. Syria's stand from the beginning was clear and took into consideration the serious repercussions of Yugoslavia's dismemberment. However, with things the way they are now, it is natural that we pay attention to the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina and treat them the same way the Croatian and Slovenian people were treated. Regrettably, international efforts have so far not led to the fair treatment of the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina, the lifting of tribulation from their shoulders, the termination of the fighting, and preventing the uprooting of people from their homes and land. That is why the Islamic meeting has focused its attention on this special state of affairs in Bosnia-Hercegovina and the adoption of a measure that will not leave the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina defenseless, a measure that will provide them with the means to defend themselves.

[Salamah] Your Excellency Farouq al-Shar', you know that the United States has convinced the UN Security Council of the need to dispatch international forces to Somalia under U.S. command. How do you assess this stand?

[Al-Shar'] The Somali people are a fraternal people, and are suffering from a serious crisis. They suffer from famine that kills thousands of Somalis daily. The Somalis suffer from the absence of a state and state institutions, and from an atmosphere of chaos unprecedented in other countries which have witnessed similar tribulations. From this premise, we believe that any UN assistance should take into consideration the need to restore normal life to Somalia, assist the Somali people to extricate themselves from this human tragedy, and not to exploit this state of affairs to achieve political objectives which have nothing to do with the territorial integrity of Somalia, the lifting of the tribulations from its people, or providing them with humanitarian assistance.

[Salamah] Do you see Syria sending troops to Somalia under the UN flag?

[Al-Shar'] The matter has not come up—neither at the ICO meeting nor at the Arab League Council; when and if it does, we will set out a position taking into account real Somali interests.

[Salamah] How do you personally feel about the dispatch of Arab troops to Somalia under UN auspices?

[Al-Shar'] As far as we are concerned, any such action must be governed by certain constraints. It must also address the Somali people's requirements, including food aid to those who really need it. Advance preparations must be made to ensure that relief aid is not commandeered en route to its destination. Another condition is the holding of a national dialogue among various Somali factions with a view to bringing about a cessation of hostilities and a political reconciliation. A third condition is that Somali independence and territorial integrity be safeguarded. As Arabs, we would naturally desire that these efforts be made under UN auspices in coordination with the Arab League.

[Salamah] Minister al-Shar', the eighth round of Arab-Israeli bilateral talks is scheduled to resume Tuesday in Washington. Jordan and the Palestinian delegation have yet to disclose whether or not they will attend. Is it likely that this round may be put off until President-elect Clinton takes office?

[Al-Shar'] Arab delegates to the Washington talks agreed to recommend to their respective foreign ministers, whom they met to evaluate the state of the seventh round, that they give the go-ahead to return to Washington for the eighth round. I do not think any of the Arab interlocutors will go it alone and break ranks with the other Arab partners. All the delegates agreed to recommend continued attendance at the Washington talks to their foreign ministers. We have a meeting set for next Friday in Beirut to discuss the matter. Agreements to rejoin the Washington peace talks will then be communicated to the cosponsors. We will also evaluate the seventh round.

[Salamah] Would you share with us the issues on which the Arab partners to the negotiations will coordinate?

[Al-Shar'] Any meeting grouping the Arab partners to the peace process is bound to emphasize the universality of a solution and UN Security Council resolutions underlying the Madrid peace conference and subsequent bilateral talks. We are also agreed that coordination must be

legal up to pursue a fair and comprehensive regional settlement grounded in UN resolutions and international legitimacy. For peace to come to the region and for it to be comprehensive, Israel must effect a total withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

[Bakouri] One last question, Mr. Minister: As you know, inter-Arab quarrels are, sadly, numerous. Are we likely to see, in the near future, moves to restore Arab solidarity?

[Al-Shar'] Syria—in particular, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad—has never failed to use every available opportunity to press home the necessity of Arab solidarity, or, at any rate, a modicum of solidarity. Syria is doing all in its power to correct the anomalous state of inter-Arab relations left by the Gulf war. We have repeatedly pointed out that the liberation of Kuwait has solved part of the problem, but other problems persist, so that further inter-Arab contacts must be held to advance overall Arab interests.

[Bakouri] Thank you, Mr. Minister for giving this interview to Radio Monte Carlo.

[Al-Shar'] You are most welcome.

Turkish Minister Comments on Nonlocal Action

TA0212302192 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1800 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Report by Esin Okur report from Jeddah]

[Text] In a statement to Turkish Radio and Television, Foreign Minister Erdal Inonu, who is representing Turkey at the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] extraordinary meeting in Jeddah, said that Turkey wants three important points in connection with Bosnia-Herzegovina to be included in the resolutions to be adopted at the meeting.

The first provides for military intervention to be undertaken on the basis of a UN Security Council resolution if necessary. The second point stipulates the lifting of the arms embargo imposed on Bosnia-Herzegovina. Pointing out that the embargo is being violated by the Serbs, Pamiyok declared that Bosnians must be accorded the right to defend themselves. As a third step, Turkey wants measures to be adopted now to prevent the clashes from spilling into Kosovo, Macedonia, Sandzak, and Vojvodina and attaches great importance to the deployment of UN troops in these areas, Pamiyok remarked.

The ICO extraordinary meeting is expected to end soon with an announcement on the decisions adopted at the meeting.

Palestinian Affairs

'Ashrawi, Others Comment on Israeli PLO Bill

BR0312101992 Paris AFP in English 0951 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Report by Barry Parker]

[Text] Jerusalem, Dec 3 (AFP)—Palestinian leaders in the occupied territories welcomed Thursday the narrow vote in favour of a bill lifting a ban on contacts with the PLO on its first reading in the Israeli parliament.

"It's a positive sign which will serve the peace process and create a better climate," spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks Hanan 'Ashrawi told AFP.

"I believe it to be an implied recognition of the PLO and I hope that the next step will be official meetings between Israelis and the PLO," she said.

"But I don't think that will happen in the near future."

Delegation chief Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi added: "There is no doubt this amendment will contribute towards progress in the peace process.

"Meetings will now, in a first stage, be able to be held between MPs of all parties, then ministers and finally the government," he told the daily DAVAR newspaper.

'Abd-al-Shafi said he believed the move could also open the way for dialogue between the Palestine Liberation Organization and the United States, which was broken off in May 1990.

The government bill to end the ban on all contacts with the PLO for those living under Israeli rule squeaked through on a 37-36 vote on Wednesday night. Nine cabinet ministers, including Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, did not turn up to vote.

The right-wing Likud, Jewish orthodox religious parties and the far right voted against amid farcical scenes in which opposition MPs had to drag ours to try to trick the ruling Labour party into believing they would not be present.

The last-minute arrival of Tourism Minister Uri Bar-Lev saved the day for the government as Police Minister Moshe Shahal missed the deadline. According to THE JERUSALEM POST as many MPs watched the Israel-Bulgaria World Cup qualifying tie on television as parliament's calls as listened to the debate.

Justice Minister David Libai had opposed the debate by branding the ban, endorsed in 1986 anti-terrorist legislation, undemocratic and discriminatory. He noted that the government could not be prosecuted for talking to the PLO, but ordinary citizens could.

But he stressed that the government still regarded the PLO as a terrorist organization and would talk only to

Palestinians from the occupied territories at the Middle East peace negotiations which resume in Washington on Monday.

The PLO bill, which will still outlaw contacts with the organization if state security is endangered, has to pass three readings before entering the statute books.

Leaders on Peace Process, Next Round of Talks

'Arafat Interview on Peace Talks

PM021213492 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 30 Nov 91 p4

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, also identified by his nom de guerre Abu-'Ammar, by 'Abd-al-Bari 'Atwan in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] ['Atwan] Should we expect a sudden decision on the negotiations in the coming days?

['Arafat] The Palestinian leadership's meeting with the Palestinian negotiating delegation headed by Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi was held to assess the results of one year of bilateral negotiations which has just ended. That was the period set by the sponsors of the conference who said that the negotiations should be concluded within that year. As is known, no progress at all has been made on the Palestinian bilateral track. The result so far has been zero. It was clear from the speech made by Shamir after he lost the elections that his aim had been to waste time and achieve nothing. Then Rabin came and it transpired that he would have nothing to do with any peace concept, especially in connection with the Palestinians. He is the man with the iron fist and the bone crusher. He is the one who volunteered to join Sharon in besieging us in Beirut even though he was not a member of the government at the time. It is evident that since he assumed power, his tactics have been to try to create inter-Arab conflicts, totally ignore the Palestinian track, and try to reach agreements on the other tracks. That is why he did not change the Israeli negotiating team nor its head.

During its recent meeting in Tunis, the Palestinian leadership carefully studied that situation before deciding to initiate intensive activity at Arab and international levels to remind everyone of their responsibilities before a final Palestinian decision is made.

['Atwan] Is there a possibility of suspending participation?

['Arafat] The Palestinian leadership will make its decision and that decision will be announced. All options are open.

['Atwan] Is it true that, one month after the specified period ...

['Arafat] (Interrupting) Not only that, the Israelis are still rejecting Resolution 242, refusing to apply it to the West Bank, Gaza, and Jerusalem, insisting on changing conditions in Jerusalem, and refusing to hold legislative elections and, instead, seeking to hold administrative elections to produce an administrative body of employees to ameliorate the occupation. We are not prepared to give the occupation such an embellished look.

['Atwan] To go back to my question, is it true that continued participation in the negotiation and reluctance to suspend that participation are due to the lack of other alternatives?

['Arafat] That is not true. The intifadah, one of the purest forms of popular struggle, is the most prominent alternative. In a few days the intifadah will enter its sixth year. That makes it the longest popular uprising in modern history. Our people's resistance against the occupation will never stop. The intifadah will continue wave after wave until the occupation disappears from that blessed land.

The Israeli chief of staff has admitted continuation of the intifadah and he said it is true that the stones have decreased but the bullets have increased.

['Atwan] It has been claimed that, during your recent visit to Cairo, you threatened to overturn the table and withdraw from the negotiations completely since the seventh round ended without any results.

['Arafat] It is not a question of threatening or making nervous decisions, nor is the matter linked to a visit to Cairo. On the contrary, I went there to come to some understanding with my brother President Mubarak on new positions, particularly as the peace process has reached this impasse. I consider the Egyptian brothers as partners, not observers or spectators.

In this connection, I put great emphasis on the Palestinian concept. Everyone should know that there is not a single Palestinian prepared to sell Jerusalem, or even a grain of Palestinian soil for the sake of a process that is a capitulation process and not a peace process. What the Israelis are requesting now is capitulation, but we will never capitulate. We refuse to sell Jerusalem. If there is anyone willing to sell Jerusalem, let him do so. May my right arm be paralyzed if I forget you, Palestine. Could Jerusalem conceivably be dearer to the Israelis than it is to us? Could it conceivably be dearer to the Israelis than it is to the Palestinians, the Arabs, and the Muslims?

['Atwan] According to some leaked reports, there is an offer to start autonomy in the Gaza Strip first and, in the light of that experiment, move on to the West Bank. How true is that?

['Arafat] That is not true, although the Israeli press has been talking about that issue. It is an old and new issue. We are required to regain all the occupied territory.

['Atwan] Rabin has recently said more than once that Yasir 'Arafat is the obstacle to peace. What is your interpretation of that from the security and political viewpoints?

['Arafat] If Rabin thinks that such emphasis would change my position or convictions, then he is mistaken. If he thinks that I pay attention to his implied threats, then he is mistaken. Rabin has made threats and so have others.

['Atwan] Some people say that they are implied assassination threats?

['Arafat] These statements are implied assassination threats, yes. I quote to Rabin the famous poem "Al-Firazdaq claimed ..." [that he would kill Marbu', so Marbu' should look forward to a long life —a famous Arab poem]. I tell Rabin that these threats will never change the position of 'Arafat or anyone else and will never make him forfeit our people's national rights. We are not asking the impossible. All we are asking is implementation of President Bush's land-for-peace initiative and implementation of Resolution 242 which means withdrawal from the Palestinian and Arab occupied territories including Jerusalem as well as fulfillment of the Palestinian people's legitimate political rights.

Let it be known that the negotiating delegation is the delegation of the PLO and Palestine, not of Rabin or one Arab country or another. It will not be blackmailed by Rabin's words and threats.

['Atwan] It has been noted that some factions were absent from the recent leadership meeting.

['Arafat] Only two factions were absent: The Democratic [Front for the Liberation of Palestine, DFLP] and the Popular [Front for the Liberation of Palestine, PFLP]. Iran is known to have interfered with these organizations. They were not 10 factions anyway. They were the DFLP, the PFLP, Hamas, and Abu-Nidal. It is known that there is Iranian funding. Iran has officially announced that it finances some Palestinian factions such as Hamas and other Palestinian organizations. I heard that from Rafsanjani when I met him in Djakarta, and he wrote in the Iranian paper ABRAR that they would support rightist and leftist factions.

I want to address the following question to every Palestinian: Is this not the 100th attempt to erase the Palestinian figure from the Middle East equation? Are these oppositionists aware of the international plot to erase the PLO and the difficult Palestinian figure?

It has now been established, after a year of negotiations, that the Palestinian figure fights through the intifadah and negotiates at the same time. Not one concession has been made. So what is the opposition based on?

There is a plot to erase out the Palestinian figure to peddle a new settlement in the region without the Palestinians.

['Atwan] Are there still fears of a separate settlement on other tracks?

['Arafat] That is the Israeli objective. I am not against the recovery of any inch of the occupied territories. That would be a gain for all the Arabs. We, the cordon states, have agreed—and it was also agreed at the seven-member meeting—that the solution should be a comprehensive one not only at bilateral level but also at multilateral level.

Could any Arab official sign a separate settlement with the Israelis while Jerusalem is under occupation? This question is addressed to all the faithful Arab, Islamic, and Christian masses.

['Atwan] Why did the meeting between you and a Hamas representative not take place during your recent visit to Khartoum?

['Arafat] First of all, I did not go to Khartoum to meet with Hamas or anyone else. I read some silly reports about that. I went to Sudan for several reasons, the most important being to attend the Sudanese Military Academy officers' graduation with Chairman al-Bashir. Some of these officers are Palestinians.

['Atwan] But it was said that your meeting with [National Islamic Front Secretary General] Shaykh Hasan al-Turabi had something to do with that supposed meeting with Hamas, and that you asked him to mediate.

['Arafat] Yes. I had a long meeting with Dr. al-Turabi. He asked me and I put him in the picture and confronted him with his responsibilities, because there is an attempt by Hamas, which I call "Inkatha Zulu" and which actually plays the Zulu part against the Palestinian revolution, but I am not Nelson Mandela—I told Dr. al-Turabi that there was an attempt, encouraged by Iran with funds and arms, to foment Palestinian sedition. I asked him to shoulder his responsibility. I asked the same of the Muslim Brotherhood's general guide in Egypt during a recent meeting I had with him. I asked him, and the movement leadership members who were present, to shoulder their responsibilities. God is my witness, I have given notice. God is my witness, I have given notice.

Some Iranian, Arab, and foreign circles are trying to cause internal [Palestinian] problems with the aim of undermining the Palestinian figure in the equation to facilitate agreement with the Israelis.

['Atwan] Do you expect moves in the near future by Dr. al-Turabi and the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood general guide in this connection?

['Arafat] Yes, they promised me that they would act.

['Atwan] Are you optimistic that such action would succeed?

['Arafat] I hope so. I hope they will use their influence on Hamas by virtue of their leading Islamic position to prevent sedition.

['Atwan] What about resumption of the dialogue with Hamas?

['Arafat] The dialogue with Hamas has not stopped. The problem is that they are new to this game. On receiving some funds from the Gulf after the Gulf war they rebelled. Before receiving these funds and before the the Gulf war they were members of the PLO and the intifadah's Higher Committee, and of the Central Council. After the Gulf war they were instigated and financed by the Gulf circles. The funding and the instigation increased recently with the entry of the Iranian factor. All this is not new to us.

['Atwan] An idea was raised recently to invite 180 selected figures from the occupied territory to participate in the meetings of the Palestine National Council [PNC] for discussion of all matters related to finding a settlement and results, but the idea seems to have been dropped. Why?

['Arafat] The idea is still there. It has nothing to do with the PNC. It is [an idea for] an expanded popular meeting with the Palestinian popular organizations in the occupied territory. That has been postponed for a while. Instead of meeting each one separately, the leadership decided to meet with them openly to enlarge the circle of decisionmaking and to get to know their views and problems. They are people elected by their own popular unions.

['Atwan] Will Hamas members be invited?

['Arafat] Yes, because some Hamas members have been elected to certain unions and institutions.

['Atwan] Brother Abu-'Ammar, frankly officials in Hamas expressed their anger at your threat to them that you would liquidate them with bullets on the grounds that they are Zulu tribes, and you are not Mandela and...

['Arafat] Is it not shameful to ask that question? I ask: Who is making the threats? It is they who made the threats and are threatening to liquidate entire families in the occupied territories, among whom I mention the Bayruq, Barbakh, Rizq, and Abu-Hasib families. They attacked schools, female students, mosques, and scientific establishments.

It is they who began the aggression and the colonizer did not budge, so we had to perform our duties toward those people. It is the Zulu group which is making the threats and committing murder. This is what I intended when I called them that.

Nevertheless, our hands are still extended to them. We want to spare our people bloodshed. In whose interests are these arms brandished? Why are the guns used to fight families rather than the occupation forces? I tell them: Come to an agreement. What is this disagreement for in the first place? Do we fight over the bear's skin before we have hunted the bear? Jerusalem is still under occupation. The holy places are still under occupation. All the resistance and all the jihad should be directed against the enemy in order to liberate Jerusalem. Jerusalem will not be liberated from Tehran.

For the sake of history, I say that had it not been for Iran's mistake during the Beirut siege, we would not have been in the situation we are in. I sought help from Arabs and Muslims, so we received a message from the Iranians in which they said: We agree to help the Palestinians if the Iraq-Iran war is brought to an end. Iraq agreed that the war be brought to an end and that Iraqi forces and Iranian forces be sent to fight Israel. But Iran backtracked and decided to continue the Gulf war. The Iranian ambassador in Beirut told us, and I had martyr Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf] with me, that the war would continue until Saddam Husayn's downfall.

Those who used the jihad to upstage me should not oppose the jihad option at the Dakar summit. The Iranians voted against the jihad at the Dakar summit.

['Atwan] There was much clamor about your visit to Damascus. Was your request to visit the Syrian capital rejected recently?

['Arafat] There was no request to visit Damascus at the time. I went to Amman to congratulate King Husayn on his safety after the surgery he had undergone and which was successful, thank God. My schedule did not include a visit to Damascus. It had been decided that brother Abu-al-Lutf [Farug Qaddumi] and Abu-Mahir should visit Damascus, which they did.

['Atwan] It is noted that there is some misunderstanding between the PLO leadership and the Syrian leadership. What is the reason?

['Arafat] I just ask my brothers in Damascus. They are currently embracing the 10 factions which are unleashing their campaigns through the radio against the peace process. Is Syria not participating with us in this process and is not its delegation, like our delegation, negotiating with the Israelis?

Is it to do with democracy in Syria? Fine... But why does that democracy speak only about our Palestinian peace process? Why does it not criticize the Syrian negotiations? Why criticize only our Palestinian track, which is at a standstill? And as is known, it is at a standstill because we reject capitulation and the Israeli conditions. I address this question to the brothers in Damascus.

I understand that, if there is freedom of opinion, it should be used to criticize all positions. But to criticize the Palestinian position only, in whose interests is it to weaken the Palestinian negotiating position?

['Atwan] You met with a Moroccan envoy a few days ago within the framework of the endeavors to hold an Arab summit. Are we anywhere nearer to that summit now?

[Arafat] That summit is a must, because our Arab nation is facing a challenge—to be or not to be in the new world order. The Germans and French fought for years, but in the end, it was they who brought Europe's unity into being and formed the first joint military force. We are one nation, one lineage, one language, and one heritage. So how come we cannot sit down together? The Arabs sat with the Israelis at the multilateral and bilateral negotiations, so why do we not sit down together?

When I met with the Moroccan envoy Ben Smaia I thanked the Moroccan monarch for his initiative to unite the Arabs. I told him that this is a historic task placed on his majesty's shoulders to carry out, and I believe he is capable of carrying it out. We need it, and what has befallen us is enough. Something worse than the Sykes-Picot [agreement] is awaiting us.

[Akwan] Many attempts have been made to smooth the atmosphere with some Gulf states, especially Saudi Arabia. What have these attempts achieved?

[Arafat] The attempts are still continuing and will continue. The dispute was not started by us, nor did we show hostility toward anyone. We adopted a principled position on the war. I just call on our brothers in the Gulf to remember Palestine and Jerusalem. They must remember that Jerusalem needs money to consolidate its people and those living in it. We are the custodians of the al-Aqsa Mosque. Those who are standing fast are the custodians of the holy places and entitled to request a brotherly look from their Gulf brothers, King Fahd in particular.

[Akwan] You sent messages to the new U.S. Administration. Have you received any replies?

[Arafat] It is early to receive any replies. I urged the administration to reopen the dialogue with the PLO and to extricate the negotiations from their present dilemma. And a delegation from inside and outside the occupied territories will go to Washington to meet with the administration. Another delegation headed by brother Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] will go to Moscow. And we will call the Jerusalem committee to convene. And we will raise all questions at the conference of the Islamic states' foreign ministers. In brief, we will confront everyone with their responsibilities.

[Akwan] An uproar surrounds your sending a cable to former East German President Honecker. What is the background to this cable?

[Arafat] I did not send a cable to Honecker, but I will stand by him as a friend and as a humanitarian case.

Al-Hamayel: No Decision Yet

LD0212143392 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] Palestinian participation in the forthcoming round of peace talks remains a matter for debate.

Fayzi al-Hamayel, head of the Palestinian delegation's guiding committee, has stated that the Palestinians have not yet decided whether to take part in this round or to call for a freeze on the talks until the new U.S. Administration assumes its responsibilities. He points out that the final decision will be made at the meeting due to be held in Beirut.

'Abd-Rabbuh Urges Postponement

LD0212233692 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Brother Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, member of the PLO Executive Committee, has expressed the belief that the forthcoming round of bilateral peace talks with Israel will not be beneficial. He said in a press statement following a meeting held yesterday with the foreign ministers of Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria on the sidelines of the Islamic Conference Organization foreign ministers meeting: We support the postponement of the forthcoming round, because it will not be beneficial due to the Israeli attitude.

Sources at the talks said that the Arab delegations had agreed to meet again in Beirut on Friday [4 December] after Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon said they are ready to attend the forthcoming round, despite the lack of progress in the previous round of talks.

Brother 'Abd-Rabbuh said that the Palestinians still await the written replies from the United States on the fears that they have. He said that the Palestinians fear that the forthcoming round will be devoid of any content, like the previous ones. He added that the United States is not applying sufficient pressure on Israel for it to accept the principle of land for peace, in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions. [passage omitted]

Results of Poll on Peace Process Published

TA0112170792 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 1 Dec 92 pp 1, 11

[Text] Ramallah—The Ramallah-based Palestinian Public Opinion Research Center yesterday released the results of its recent poll about the peace process, the negotiating process, and the steps that should be taken by the Palestinians in the coming phase.

The poll highlighted some results, most important of which are:

First: The poll showed that 48 percent of the respondents see in the negotiations a chance to achieve peace and realize the Palestinian people's hopes. Some 20.06 percent believe that the current negotiations are the only hope; 22.05 percent believe that the negotiations are the only hope if they are based on Resolutions 242 and 338; and 24.09 percent believe that the negotiations are the only hope if better terms are provided and if there is a more comprehensive Palestinian representation. In contrast, only 25.02 percent see no hope in the negotiations achieving peace.

Second: The poll showed that 41.06 of the respondents believe that the negotiations have not yielded positive and tangible results so far, while 17.03 percent believe that the negotiations have maintained the status quo and prevented its deterioration. In contrast, 28.03 percent believe that the negotiations will never yield positive results.

Third: The poll showed that 52.08 of the Palestinian people believe that the policy of land confiscation, uprooting of trees, and demolition of homes has not undergone any significant change. Some 29.01 believe that the negotiations have helped to decrease this practice, while only 12.09 percent believe that the practice has increased since the negotiations began.

Fourth: The poll showed that 64.06 percent of the respondents trust the Palestinian delegation as well as its performance and its ability to remain loyal and adhere to Palestinian principles. Some 39.07 percent believe that the delegation is flexible in its proposals, but within the framework of Palestinian principles. Some 24.09 percent believe that the delegation has not backed down from the principles but fear that it will be subjected to pressure that will force it to back down. In contrast, 30.04 percent believe that the delegation has gone beyond the Palestinian principles. On the other hand, 67.02 of the respondents are satisfied with the delegation's performance and believe that it is good, although it lacks expertise and has been tasked with a heavy burden. Some 22.09 percent believe that the delegation's performance is very good; 23.05 percent believe that it is good but the delegation lacks expertise; and 20.08 percent believe that it is good but the role that is required from the delegation is beyond its capability because it is shouldering an historic responsibility.

Fifth: The poll showed that 61.01 of the respondents believe that the opposition has no agenda to rely upon in confronting the negotiating process, and 27.09 believe that it has an agenda and that this agenda is better and more correct for achieving a comprehensive solution. The poll showed that 43 percent of the opposition supports jihad in the cause of God as well as armed struggle, and 12.03 of the opposition wants to improve the terms and bases of the negotiating process through pressure on the cosponsors of the conference and through implementation of international legitimacy.

Sixth: The poll showed that real opposition to the peace process does not exceed 20 percent of the respondents, because 71.01 of those surveyed believe that the response to strike on 23 September sought to end bloodshed and stop infighting, and that 76.04 of the respondents accept autonomy if it leads to Palestinian sovereignty.

In contrast, only 19.07 percent of the respondents believe that adherence to the strike was due to the opposition's influence and broad representation. Only 19.05 do not accept autonomy and 8.07 reject any agreement with the Israeli side.

Seventh: The poll showed a real desire by the Palestinian people to participate actively in formulating the general policy and in adopting crucial and decisive decisions. Only 33.07 percent of those surveyed saw a need to hold a referendum on continuing the negotiations, and 48.04 percent believed it is necessary to hold a referendum on any agreement that might be reached in the current negotiations.

Eighth: The result of the survey affirmed the deteriorating economic situation being experienced by the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. The survey showed that the average income of 67.07 percent of the respondents ranged from zero to 400 dinars per month.

The survey covered most parts of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and included 1,000 residents from various sectors and social strata—20 percent workers, 17 percent unemployed, 15 percent students, 10 percent employees, 10 percent professionals, 10 percent merchants, 8 percent farmers, and 10 percent housewives. The survey was conducted at random in actual proportion to the various professions and sectors.

'Arafat Confers With Iraqi Envoy to Tunisia 2 Dec

JN0212210992 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1930 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] Tunis, 2 Dec (INA)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat received here today Iraqi Ambassador to Tunisia Hamid 'Alwan.

During their meeting, the officials reviewed a number of Arab and international issues, as well as latest developments in the Palestine question.

Factions Urge Strike, Denounce Peace Talks

JN0212182292 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] The 10 Palestinian factions [not further identified] issued a statement today in which they called on the masses of our people in Palestine to consider next Wednesday, 9 December, a day of comprehensive strike to mark the sixth anniversary of the intifadah and protest the continuation of negotiations in Washington.

In their statement, the 10 Palestinian factions stressed that this strike will reflect the Palestinian people's rejection of what are referred to as the peace negotiations.

Algeria

Curfew Announced in 7 Provinces Starting 5 Dec

LD0212200892 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen: The Ministry of Interior and Local Communities has issued a communique in which it serves notice to all citizens that it has been decided to impose a curfew as of 2230 on 5 December 1992 in the provinces of Algiers—the capital, Tipasa, Boumerdes, Blida, Medea, Bouira, and Ain Defla.

The curfew is to be imposed between 2230 and 0500. The movement of persons and vehicles will be totally prohibited. But to ensure the continuation of all public services, special permits will be granted for the workers in the following sectors: National customs, public health, the national company for electricity and gas—SONELGAZ, the airline companies and air exploitation services, municipal services for cleansing and water, and post and telecommunications. Workers in the aforementioned sectors have to carry their vocational cards and an official order for the task, given to them by the authority that is the guardian, has a mandate, and is legally qualified. In addition, these workers can apply for a permit for movement to the police stations and gendarmerie centers.

On the other hand, with regard to the citizens and in case of need exceptions have been decided. These persons can obtain a movement permit from the police stations and the national gendarmerie centers.

In extremely urgent cases citizens can telephone using the telephone numbers, to be given later for each province. Citizens who do not have telephones can approach the nearest checkpoint where they will be given the necessary assistance. In this case they will be required to show the greatest degree of caution and strict respect for the instructions of the security forces.

Out of its awareness of the disruption that will be caused by the implementation of this security measure, the Ministry of Interior and Local Communities calls on the citizens to be understanding and to show civil sense. In cases of need and to obtain further information you can contact the police station or the National Gendarmerie Center near your home.

Official on Reasons for Curfew

LD0212231492 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] Following the announcement about the introduction of the curfew, M'hamed Tolba, the minister delegate in charge of security, today told APS that the decision to impose a curfew in seven provinces makes it possible to strengthen the results that have been achieved thus far in in the field of combating terrorism. Mr. Tolba regarded this measure as one way to drive forward the process of combating terrorism. He explained that the period of the curfew was not specified. Such a matter will depend on the results which will be recorded in the field.

Concerning the terrorist groups, Mr. Tolba explained that the difficult cells are isolated and a target and their identity is known. On the other hand, he sees that the relationship between the terrorists, the highwaymen, and those active in the black market has become clear. Important quantities of drugs were seized from terrorists who have been arrested and who were collaborating with small and big criminals.

Mr. Tolba considered the results of combating terrorism as satisfactory. He added in his APS statement that most of the citizens will appreciate the need to strengthen security arrangements and will hope to see a quick improvement of the current deteriorating situation.

About Article 40 of the law on combating terrorism, Mr. Tolba affirmed that in this measure the government has not been seeking one-upmanship but its sole motive has been compassion.

Murder Attempt Said Not Linked To Union Ban

LD0312090592 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] Mr. Abdelhak Benhamouda [secretary general of the General Union of Algerian Workers, UGTA, who escaped an assassination attempt in Algiers] held a news conference at the People's Hall in Algiers early this evening. He clarified the circumstances surrounding the incident and cleared up the ambiguity about some reports carried by the national press. Our correspondent Fatiha Djaidar was present at the news conference:

[Djaidar] Responding to a request by workers and trade unionists, Mr. Benhamouda held this news conference to clarify some issues raised by a number of national newspapers published this morning, particularly with regard to his alleged trip to the Presidency of the Republic immediately after the assassination attempt yesterday. The newspapers also saw a link between the attempted assassination of Mr. Benhamouda and the government's recent decision to ban the SIT [Syndicat Islamique du Travail—Islamic Trade-Union of Labor, seen as a front for the banned Islamic Salvation Front]

[Begin Benhamouda recording] First of all, I would like to say that I have not been to the Presidency since we met with the members of the Higher State Council within the framework of the consultations. I cannot remember the exact date, I think it was in October [somebody next to him confirms the month]. So this is the first thing I want to say: I did not get in touch with the Presidency nor did I go to the Presidency. I went home to be with my children. This is the reason why I did not appear yesterday, because I have family duties.

As regards the Islamic Trade Union, we say it is not a trade union. We have said: this is the extension of a party. We were also against the government and against

the company managers, because they were dealing with an illegal and illegitimate entity. But they did not listen to us. As for linking this with the assassination attempt against me, let me tell you, brothers, this is not the first time that ... [sentence unfinished as heard] But this time it took different proportions. This is not the first time that I have come under such attacks. There are some trade unionists who even paid with their lives, including Abderrahmane Belaribar, God bless his soul. This means that attacks on activists of the UGTA did not come as a result of the dissolution of the Islamic Trade Union of Labor. The attacks began before that. [end recording]

[Djaidar] Attacking the person of the secretary general was an attack on the largest section of society in Algeria, namely the workers, Mr. Benhamouda said. Even if they were not the party responsible for the attack, the group of people who witnessed the incident, he said, took part in that attack with their silence because of their fear [as heard]. As regards the perpetrators of the assassination attempt, Mr. Benhamouda indicated that he could not identify them because he could not see them. The trade union leader also talked about the spontaneous rallies and the workers' and trade unionists' expressions of sympathy for him after news of his assassination attempt was made public. He added that even in the international arena all the Maghreban, Arab, and European trade unions have sent messages of sympathy to the UGTA and its secretary general.

Egypt

'Terrorist Organization' Members Sentenced to Death

NC0312124692 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1225 GMT 3 Dec 92

[All numbers as received]

[Text] Alexandria, 3 Dec (MENA)—Alexandria's Supreme Military Court today issued the death sentence against eight members of the terrorist organization that includes 26 defendants belonging to Hizballah, al-Jihad Organization, and the World Islamic Group, who are involved in case no. 24 of 1992.

The court sentenced one defendant to 10 years hard labor, another to 15 years in prison, three defendants to five years in prison, and acquitted three others.

Government To Send Peacekeeping Force to Somalia

NC0312221992 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1750 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Excerpt] United Nations, 2 Dec (MENA)—Ambassador Nabil al-'Arabi, Egypt's permanent UN envoy, told the Security Council chairman that the Egyptian Government has agreed to participate in the UN peacekeeping operation in Somalia, and that an Egyptian military force is getting ready to be deployed in Somalia within the next few weeks. [passage omitted]

U.S., UN Reaction to Somalian Crisis Questioned

NC0312111692 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
30 Nov 92 p 9

[Editorial: "The Scale of American Intervention"]

[Text] The situation in Somalia is tragic beyond any description. Some 300,000 people died in one year from drought and civil war, and hundreds of thousands more are expected to die as food relief fails to find its way to the hungry and the UN peace-keeping force fails to protect relief supply routes.

Somalia's tragedy does not stop at starvation; it involves a complete collapse of the state. The government does not exist; it has been replaced by gangs, highway robbers, and warlords. All this is accompanied by a shameful sluggishness on the part of the world community represented by the United Nations, which began some positive steps only after the United States showed signs of concern by proposing to send 300,000 [figure as published] troops to Somalia. Previously, the United Nations demonstrated similar sluggishness toward Bosnia's tragedy.

The U.S. proposal has angered some powerless Somali officials, who found in it some kind of international tutelage on their country, although the guerrilla war in Somalia has destroyed the concept of state and sovereignty, among other things.

Nevertheless, the U.S. proposal, which is putting on a humanitarian gown, remains a cause for serious and pressing questions about the scale of U.S. intervention, its specific mission, the extent of its use of force, and the fact that it is a precedent that may be repeated in the future.

Government Protests Cleric's Stay in U.S.

NC0212161292 Paris AFP in English
1519 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, Dec 2 (AFP)—Egypt has protested to the U.S. Embassy over the stay in the United States of a Muslim cleric considered to be the spiritual guide of fundamentalist extremists, the interior minister said Wednesday.

Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, linked to the underground Al-Jihad group responsible for the 1981 assassination of president Anwar al-Sadat, has lived in the United States since July 1990.

Interior Minister 'Abd-al-Halim Musa told the weekly AL-MUSAWWAR he had asked the embassy for "clarifications" on Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman's status.

General Musa accused the cleric of "collecting funds in the United States" for fundamentalist activists in Egypt and for ordering the distribution of anti-government tracts.

According to reports from Washington, the U.S. authorities are seeking ways of expelling the blind cleric, who was implicated in al-Sadat's assassination but acquitted for lack of evidence.

The underground Jama'ah Islamiyah [Islamic Group]—known as Al-Jihad by the authorities—has claimed responsibility for several attacks on tourists, notably in southern Egypt where a British woman was killed in October.

The fundamentalists are locked in a confrontation with the government and have vowed to step up attacks on tourism, a pillar of the country's economy that brought in three billion dollars this year.

Cairo has accused Tehran of backing the fundamentalists and Musa said he had proof confirming the presence in neighbouring Sudan of 2,000 Revolutionary Guards militiamen from Iran to train fundamentalists in Egypt.

He charged that fundamentalists on trial in the northern city of Alexandria had implicated Iran in terrorist operations in Egypt.

Sudanese leader General 'Umar al-Bashir, in an interview Monday with AFP, denied any Iranian troops were deployed in his country.

Cleric's Extradition Sought

NC0311200792 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 30 Nov 92 p 1

[Text] AL-AHRAR has learned that the Egyptian Government has asked the U.S. Government to extradite Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, leader of the banned Islamic al-Jihad Organization, who now lives in the United States. Diplomatic sources say that the Egyptian request is being discussed by U.S. authorities.

A U.S. court, meanwhile, is expected to determine whether to cancel Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman's residence permit on the grounds that he poses a danger to security and is wanted by Egyptian courts in connection with several terrorist attacks.

A responsible security source has confirmed that the Interior Ministry has asked the Foreign Ministry to contact the responsible U.S. authorities through diplomatic and judiciary channels to seek the deportation of 'Abd-al-Rahman to Egypt to face charges before the public prosecutor. Interrogations with a number of al-Jihad leaders has revealed that 'Abd-al-Rahman issued religious rulings allowing attacks on tourists on the pretext that money earned from them is "usurped." Moreover, he has financed the group's activities through donations collected abroad.

The source added that security authorities have intercepted two checks totaling $140,000 he sent to the group in Egypt.

The source said that security authorities had no role whatsoever in Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman's expulsion [ib'ad] from Cairo, adding that he was permitted to travel to perform the minor pilgrimage [to Saudi Arabia]. However, he later left for Afghanistan and then to Sudan, where he obtained an entry visa to the United States.

Paper Calls U.S. Policy on Terrorism 'Hypocrisy'

NC0212141092 Cairo Al-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1004 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 2 Dec (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—AL-AHALI, mouthpiece of the National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party, published a report saying that Egyptian-U.S. relations are passing through restrained tension. Washington has kept silent about Egyptian questions last week on U.S. facilities to 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, the al-Jihad Organization mufti, despite his complicity in instigating terrorism in Egypt. The interview with him by the British newspaper THE INDEPENDENT, which AL-AHALI summarized in its previous issue, revealed this fact. Egyptian circles explained this as U.S. acceptance of terrorism aimed at exhausting Egypt and drowning it in security, economic, and political problems so that it will not rise to play its pan-Arab role.

Noteworthy is the fact that while Washington is exerting pressure these days to broaden economic, political, and military sanctions against Libya on the pretext of its failure to hand over two citizens believed to be involved in acts of terror, Washington takes care of the residence and activities of 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, who incites the assassination of senior Egyptian officials and killing and terrorizing tourists in Egypt. This clearly reveals the double standard and hypocrisy of U.S. dealing with terrorism. Egyptian circles believe that this U.S. position is a form of disdain for the Egyptian people. It is worth noting that Washington forced the shah of Iran to leave the United States so as not to anger the Iranian people when they launched their revolution against the shah, who acted as the commander of the Gulf police that served U.S. interests at that time.

Mubarak Writes al-Qadhdhafi on 'Western Crisis'

NC0212142492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1344 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 2 Dec (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al- Sharif, who arrived in the Libyan city of Tobruk this afternoon on his way to Tripoli, said that he is carrying a message from President Husni Mubarak to brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan Revolution, within the framework of negotiations between the two countries on issues of mutual interest.

The information minister said in an exclusive statement to a MENA correspondent that at the top of these issues are the results of continuous and extensive contacts President Mubarak has held recently with leaders and presidents on an international level to find a solution to the Libyan-Western crisis and bring the viewpoints of the parties to the crisis closer.

In this regard, he mentioned the talks President Mubarak held recently with French President Francois Mitterrand in Paris and his talks with British Prime Minister John Major during Major's visit to Cairo.

The information minister said in his statement that President Mubarak's message to the brother colonel contains the results of contacts between President Mubarak and U.S. President George Bush, as well as the new U.S. Administration.

He pointed out that President Mubarak's message reflects his eagerness to step up efforts to end this crisis.

The information minister left Cairo this morning on his way to Tripoli, where he will be received by Col. al-Qadhdhafi.

Iran Backing 'Fierce' Foreign Media Campaign

NC0212182092 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1710 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Cairo, 2 Dec (MENA)—Tourism Minister Fu'ad Sultan said UN statistics confirm that Egypt is one of the countries suffering least from terrorism and extremism and that it enjoys security and stability unlike many others. He said Egypt is facing a fierce media campaign abroad, a campaign that is being run at the same time as terrorist and extremist actions, which he described as isolated acts by some extremists whom he labelled criminals acting against Egypt.

The minister made this statement at today's meeting of the Consultative Council's industrial production and energy committee under Speaker Dr. Mustafa Kamal Hilmi, held to discuss the future of air transport.

Minister Sultan said he believed the fierce media campaign waged against Egypt from abroad has huge foreign financial backing. He added: We see whole page advertisements by Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, the mufti of the extremist al-Jihad Organization. He noted reports that Iran is financing this campaign, which depicts Egypt as if it is on the verge of the abyss and gives an unreassuring picture that is the opposite of the reality. [passage omitted]

Paper Views Syrian Offer To 'Mediate' With Iran

NC0312072992 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic
29 Nov 92 p 1

[Article by Chief Editor Jalal Dewaydar: "An appreciated Initiative But!"]

[Text] It is good of Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq al-Shar' to announce his country's rejection of any attempts to undermine the stability of any Arab country through terrorism. Naturally, such a Syrian stand is what we expect, especially since many of the statements coming out of Damascus concern backing and support for Arab nationalism. To be more specific, al-Shar' stated that the Syrian Government would adopt a decisive stand toward Iran if it proved Iran's involvement in any acts of terrorism or violence against Egypt. In an appreciated initiative that we hope will turn into an actual deed, he stated that Damascus will not allow any country to carry out such acts against Egypt, since this would negatively affect the stability of the entire Middle East region. In a news conference held in Tokyo and published by the newspaper AL-AHRAM citing its correspondent there, al-Shar' declared that President al-Asad is ready to exert all efforts and mediate between Iran and Egypt, or any other Arab country, to settle the differences and prevent further deterioration in the Middle East region. In his statement, al-Shar' praised the strong brotherly relations between Egypt and Syria.

With regard to the Syrian foreign minister's positive remarks, the contents of which we welcome, I wish that he had not talked about Syria's mediation between Iran and Egypt or Arab countries, because mediation arises when there are points of disagreement in bilateral relations, not when the issue is interference in domestic affairs. Syria, which is linked to Iran by the strongest relations and interests, is required to use its influence to demand that Iran end its interference in the Arab countries' internal affairs and give up the method of intimidation and seizure of Arab islands in the Arabian Gulf.

Regarding the terrorist practices the Syrian foreign minister said Syria would be ready to do something about if it proved Iran's involvement in them. I tell him that the hostile statements made by the rulers of the mullahs' regime who are sitting on the peacock's throne in Tehran provide evidence and proof of their suspicious and terrorist role against Egypt and the Arab states, something that they do not deny.

The Iranian leadership has not hidden its terrorism and threats against Gulf states, as demonstrated by the interviews and reports published in the papers affiliated to them on their quest for hegemony and domination of the Gulf region. This leadership also talks every day about stepping up and exporting the revolution and the use of every illegitimate way to attain this end through funding and agents. These statements, or rather actual practices, constitute incriminating evidence against the Iranian regime, which represents a Persian nationalism that seeks to settle its accounts with Arab nationalism!

I would like to warn here that if temporary interests prevent the spread of Iran's hostile policy toward Syria at the moment, I hope that the Syrian national leadership realizes that it will not remain unaffected by Iran's mistakes and ambitions in the future, judging by the schemes of the ruling regime of mullahs in Tehran.

I believe that the meeting of the Islamic states' foreign ministers in Riyadh [as published] on Tuesday will provide an opportunity for openness [mukashafah] with the Iranian regime during which Syrian Foreign Minister al-Shar' should convey the Syrian viewpoint made public in Tokyo. Meanwhile, I call on the Islamic states' foreign ministers to courageously declare that the hostile and terrorist policy undertaken by Iran against Egypt and the Arab states seeks to undermine the Islamic and Arab interests and that nobody agrees to hegemony and domination. They should advise Tehran's rulers to learn the lesson of Saddam Husayn and realize that his fall does not mean they should try to play the same role!!

Israel Said To Ask for Mediation With Syria

NC0312111392 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 29 Nov 92 p 1

[Report by 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar]

[Text] Israel has asked Egypt to convey to Syria its dissatisfaction with the presence of 10 Palestinian organizations opposed to the peace process on Syrian territory. An informed diplomatic source in Cairo said Tel Aviv asked for Egypt's mediation to bring Israeli and Syrian viewpoints on the priorities of the peace process closer together.

The source said that during their talks in Cairo, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres conveyed to Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa Israel's view that the conclusion of peace agreements should not be linked to progress on all tracks of the negotiations and on all issues. Israel also asked Egypt to help convince the Arab sides to accept the establishment of a water desalination plant to solve water shortages in Gaza. Israel pledged to secure financing for the station.

At a meeting with them in Cairo, Peres called on Egyptian intellectuals to abandon emotions in Arab-Israeli relations and establish ties based on mutual interests. The Israeli minister cited German-French and British-French relations as an example.

State Wants To Prevent More Sanctions on Libya

NC0212134192 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1008 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 2 Dec (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—Egypt is holding intense diplomatic contacts to prevent the escalation of international sanctions against Libya to force it to hand over the two Libyans suspected of involvement in downing the U.S. Pan Am airplane over Scotland in 1988. Dr. Usamah al-Baz, director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, will seek during his visit to London and Washington to dissuade officials in the two countries from imposing new sanctions against Libya and to agree on a venue for putting the two defendants on trial should they be turned over.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Turayki, Libya's permanent envoy to the Arab League, and 'Abd al-'Ati al-Lubaydi, official in charge of dialogue with Britain, briefed Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd- al-Majid on developments in the Libyan-Western crisis and the outcome of the Libyan-British dialogue.

Libyan opposition sources in Cairo stressed that Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi is seeking to obtain Western guarantees that handing over the two Libyans to Britain will be the last demand on Libya and that the file of the crisis will be closed for good. These sources attributed these attempts to Libyan fears that the confessions of the two defendants may involve Libyan officials in the Lockerbie incident and other similar issues.

The seven-member Arab committee tasked with the Lockerbie issue held a meeting on the sidelines of the Islamic Conference Organization in Jeddah to follow up developments in the Libyan- Western crisis. The committee called on the Western countries concerned to respond to the Libyan desire for negotiations on finding a legal mechanism to implement Security Council Resolution 731. The committee noted that it felt a Libyan concern to implement the Security Council resolution.

Security Services Capture 'Terrorists'

NC0212130692 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1007 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 2 Dec (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—Egyptian security services have captured 34 terrorists and suspects in Aswan, in southern Egypt. They had crossed the border from Sudan to carry out acts of sabotage and terrorism in Egypt. The police also seized two-and-a-half tons of explosives, three automatic rifles, and 50 pieces of various automatic weapons.

Major General Hasaya Tawfiq, assistant interior minister and Aswan security chief, and his deputy, Major General Samir Ghallab, have led a search in all parts of the governorate to arrest individuals suspected of belonging to terrorist groups that have crossed the border from Sudan.

During this campaign, the police arrested three terrorists and seized their automatic rifles, 15 people who have prior records of various crimes, and 16 people suspected of belonging to terrorist groups according to Suspects Law No. 110 of 1980.

It has been learned that the confiscated explosives are produced locally and are used in quarry blasting and for acts of terrorism.

All the detainees were referred to the public prosecution, which has launched an investigation to determine who supplied them with money to buy the weapons and explosives.

Nasif Seen To Secure Border With Sudan

NC0212144092 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 29 Nov 92 p 14

[From the "Dividing Lines" column by Samir Rajab]

[Text] Aswan is accustomed to receiving Sudanese brothers, who have been going there to earn a livelihood since their living conditions worsened with Sudan coming under the control of the regime of Hasan al-Turabi [leader of the Sudanese Islamic Front], for which the Salvation Front, led by 'Umar al-Bashir, is a euphemism. Daily experience proves that al-Bashir has offered himself and his homeland voluntarily and willingly to Iran's clerks through the al-Turabi-led Islamic Front.

We must now secure our various borders, especially with Sudan, which has become certain that Hasan al-Turabi and his followers are planning and carrying out terrorist operations in Egypt, implementing orders from "the thieves of government" in Iran. The Sudanese brothers will not find the outlets for a good livelihood, which have long helped them to face the difficult economic circumstances in their country and saved them from joining "the caravans of the hungry people" that have now become one of Sudan's basic features.

So a ruler severely harms his citizens using false slogans and showing them one thing while harboring another; this is a great disaster.

Perhaps what links al-Turabi-al-Bashir regime members in Sudan is that each one does the opposite of what he says and behaves in a way that contradicts his appearance to people at home and abroad.

The Sudanese regime knows the financial people in the south do not accept their country being a threat to the safety and security of their fellow Egyptians.

So leaders of this regime are eager now and then to repeat the nonexistent phrase that says: Relations between the Egyptian and Sudanese people are long-standing and eternal.

They reiterate this phrase when they carry out the instructions of Iran's imams to the letter, interventions that call shamelessly for driving elements of subversion and terrorism into Egypt.

The same applies to the thieves of government in Iran, who claim to implement the tolerant Islamic sharia, while they kill human beings unjustly and put their nation's innocent people in prison and then announce that they do not interfere in other countries' internal affairs. This occurs while all the evidence and documents indicate the opposite and provide new proof that they commit acts of which the tolerant religion does not approve.

Something remains to be said: Almighty God is the only one who knows the invisible and forbids lying and hypocrisy. Do the "fellow Muslims" in Sudan and Iran know what there fate is?

Prime Minister Discusses Economic Measures, Reform

NC0212224892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1715 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Excerpts] Cairo, 2 Dec (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi stressed that the Egyptian Government will proceed with the economic reform policy until the country's economy regains its health. He said that the reform process is an integrated one that aims to let things interact gradually with a large degree of freedom until we reach what is called the market laws, primarily the law of supply and demand.

In a speech he delivered today before a conference of textile industries, held at the Labor Social Institute in Shubra al-Khaymah and attended by the ministers of industry, electricity, economy, and manpower, Prime Minister Sidqi said that Egypt is moving toward expanding the base of applying market laws, primarily the law of supply and demand. He added that this does not mean that the government is not involved in the process, saying that the government has a role through specific monetary, tax, credit, and other policies. He added that there is no harm in government involvement as long as the aim is to achieve society's objectives. [passage omitted]

The prime minister said that inflation dropped this year to 9 percent from between 27 and 28 in 1986-87. He added that the rate is expected to drop even further to around 6.5 or 7 percent by the end of the year.

Sidqi discussed the budget deficit, saying that it has dropped to between 28 and 30 percent; that is, one-third of the budget used to be financed by inflationary measures. He added that the deficit is expected to drop to between 4 and 4.5 percent in 1992-93, noting that the drop has helped reduce the rate of inflation. [passage omitted]

The prime minister discussed customs tariffs, saying that the government is now thinking of reducing the maximum ceiling of this tariff to 100 percent from the present 150 or 180 percent, which is imposed, for example, on large luxury cars and luxury goods.

He viewed subsidies, saying said that the state will continue to subsidize basic commodities, such as wheat, oil, and sugar. He added that these subsidies are done at the expense of the state's public budget and not at the expense of the producer or society.

Dr. Sidqi also discussed electricity, saying that an agreement has been reached with international economic bodies to gradually abolish the electricity and petroleum products subsidies by 1994-95. He pointed out that the

IMF and World Bank have asked that the subsidies be abolished at one fell swoop, but the Egyptian Government resisted and insisted that it be done gradually. [passage omitted]

7,000 Held Arrested After Attack on Tourists

NC0212210792 Cairo MISR AL-FATAH in Arabic 30 Nov 92 pp 1, 2

[Excerpt] A responsible source at the Interior Ministry has said that following the attack on the German tourists in Qina, some 7,000 suspects have been detained on charges of involvement in terrorist operations. The source noted the involvement of al-Jihad Mufti Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman in the recent terrorist incidents. 'Abd-al-Rahman ruled that tourism is sinful and instructed the leaders of the organization [tanzim] who were in Peshawar, Pakistan, near the Afghan borders, to go to Egypt and murder tourists. The source added that investigators have evidence that backs up this claim.

The security official said that Egyptian security forces have arrested many of the extremists, who number more than 1,000, and that the list is posted at Egyptian ports and airports. The extremists use valid Sudanese and Yemeni passports under names de guerre that are difficult to detect. [passage omitted]

Musa Returns From Jeddah ICO Meeting

NC0212210092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2030 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Excerpts] Cairo, 2 Dec (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa returned to Cairo this evening from Jeddah, where he led Egypt's delegation to the meetings of the sixth extraordinary session of the Islamic states' foreign ministers.

In an arrival statement, Musa said that the conferees had agreed to step up action on the Bosnian-Herzegovina issue through the Security Council and the Geneva Conference. According to an understanding reached at the conference, he added, suspending arms supplies to Yugoslavia actually helps the Serbs, who are producing weapons, and hurts Bosnia, thereby leading to more Serbian aggression. Musa added that this was the main theme of his discussion with international envoys Cyrus Vance and David Owen. [passage omitted]

Musa discussed the upcoming Beirut meeting among the Arabian states foreign ministers, saying that it is part of coordination of the Arab stand before the start of the new round of peace talks. He added that the assistant foreign minister will attend the meeting on his behalf.

Musa is scheduled to submit a report to President Husni Mubarak on the outcome of the Islamic foreign ministers Jeddah meeting, which ended earlier today.

Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman on 'Corrupt' Mubarak Regime

LD0212181892 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, a prominent Egyptian spiritual leader, was interviewed by our London correspondent about the reasons for the intensification of the Islamic uprising in the North African countries such as Egypt. We draw your attention to it:

[Unidentified correspondent] Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, the leader of the Egyptian al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah [Islamic group] who lives in exile, took part in an exclusive interview with the Islamic Republic of Iran's Voice and Vision. He announced: Egypt today is trapped by a Pharaonic, corrupt, and anti-Islamic regime which is an ally of all the enemies of Islam, and it is the enemy of Islam and the Islamic ummah and anything that resembles Islam.

Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman rejected the allegations made by Egyptian officials—including the Egyptian interior minister—that the Islamic uprising of the people of Egypt has physical contacts with foreign countries. He added: The Islamic uprising of Egypt is an independent movement and based on God's will.

Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman added that the Islamic uprising of Egypt does not receive financial assistance from any foreign country. He said: The Husni Mubarak regime in Cairo is seeking unity between the Zionists and the government of Egypt to fight Islamic uprisings all over the region and that is a sign of the Egyptian regime's anti-Islamic nature, showing how far it has been corrupted in treason against Muslims and Islam.

He said: The Islamic Republic of Iran is the only supporter of the world Muslims' Islamic ideals and the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran has spread the shadow of fear of divine punishment in the hearts of enemies of God and enemies of Muslims. Egyptian Muslims see themselves as friends and brothers of Iranian Muslims.

Mauritania

President Delivers Address on National Day

AB2811224092 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in French 1930 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Announcer read translation of President Ould Taya's address to the nation in Nouakchott on 27 November—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [previous sentence in Arabic] Dear compatriots, we are celebrating the 32nd anniversary of our independence. This is an occasion that we hold dear and I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere congratulations to all Mauritanians at a time when we

are organizing these festivities in dignity, pride, and freedom and in control of our own destiny. Today is an important day because for the first time in the contemporary history of our country, our national day is being celebrated in a law abiding state with democratic institutions that are living proofs of this new era that is shown in all its greatness through the Constitution you adopted after the 12 July 1991 referendum. This Constitution has set the rules and laid down the foundations of the democracy that we are experiencing today. That is why our people are now enjoying individual and collective freedom with no other limits than those imposed by the law and national interest.

Political parties have been created and they now number 16. Tens of newspapers and journals and constitutional institutions were created and they perform their mission in harmony and with a sense of responsibility. This is an achievement for all our people from all walks of life and for all active forces.

These achievements demanded the participation of all in the past, and to preserve them demands the mobilization of all the sons of the fatherland, devoted to his cause, intent on preserving his best interest today, and concerned with his progress and prosperity in the future.

To this regard, I would like to commend the high degree of patriotism constantly shown by our compatriots each time our country faced a threat regardless of its nature. However, this spirit should be maintained and developed in order for us to distance ourselves from certain attitudes that could be detrimental for us, like dual citizenship. These attitudes inevitably generate threats to the security and property of those who practice them each time internal difficulties are experienced in the country they consider their second fatherland.

Such attitudes demands a permanent mobilization and a constant availability to channel all the efforts and use all available energy. This mobilization and this patriotic availability are all the more essential in the face of the new international circumstances and the dangers looming ahead for all nations and peoples.

Everyone is aware of the fact that the adverse international situation goes with a peculiar internal situation in the sense that our country constitutes an advanced front for desert encroachment with its corollary of drought cycles that, in addition to the fact that they destroy the fauna and flora, constitute a threat to life in general. This happens at a time when we are living the last phases of a change in our way of life that is adapted to our realities based on sobriety towards a society of consumption inclined to easiness and subject to numerous desires and needs that increase day after day.

You certainly remember the great challenges we had to face these past years, notably the painful events we experienced in 1989 when our people had to suddenly welcome hundreds of thousands of repatriated sons. These were problems that hit the country in its very core and exposed it to threats that were aimed at shaking its very foundation. Today we have overcome these difficulties, with the help of Allah, and our situation is no longer threatening.

Dear compatriots, we overcame many difficulties and obstacles that once blocked our path, met major challenges, and won decisive victories in the various battles that we waged to live and to survive. This is a national duty that is to be performed by all of us and we should contribute to the continuous efforts and at the same time put national interest above all other considerations.

If during the exceptional conditions the country experienced in the past we were able to maintain the fundamental economic balances and at the same time gradually overcome the difficulties, we can now lay down solid foundations for a policy to revamp our economy, one that will be based on the guarantee of essential transactions and the search for a rational exploitation of all the national resources to improve the standard of living.

Indeed, we will continue to work toward the achievement of a harmonious and integrated development based on the fact that man is both the artisan and finality of development. It is in this regard that our educational, cultural, and social policies were adopted with the aim of liberating the Mauritanian by reconciling him with himself through the rehabilitation of national principles and values and by freeing him from all the handicaps that impede his progress and emancipation.

These concrete actions can be seen in our continued efforts to eradicate illiteracy among a large portion of our people who have been deprived of the right to education and our great sacrifices for the training of our growing generations. Thus, the frontiers of illiteracy have been remarkably reduced and the rate of literacy has constantly increased. The most striking impact of this policy was in the change of archaic ideas, the massive guidance of people toward more valuable work, and a greater cohesion of people like a team within the same framework of equality, elimination of unjustified social inequalities, and guaranteeing equal chances for all.

The effort made in the agricultural sector in our country during the past years was a living reality and experienced by all. Thanks to this effort and the success of the economic programs and other projects in other important sectors, we were able to make important progress on the way to development.

Owing to the orientations mentioned above, our country has won a lot of credit and high esteem. It is in this connection that it has played an important role in the construction of the Arab Maghreb and will resolutely continue its efforts to establish unity and the sense of reciprocity within this body. We will also contribute to Arab, African, and Islamic community organizations and continue our efforts toward the establishment of peace in the world.

It goes without saying that our global development enterprise can be seen through vast programs, whose implementation has begun, in order to provide the capital of (Hecalayat) and other big towns with equipment and infrastructure in the fields of water supply, energy, communications, radio and television network, rehabilitation and extension of the road network, construction of dams, bore holes, and a greater number of wells. All these are important steps on the road to the balanced development of all the regions in the country. Other projects will be launched in the nearest future. This will enable us to look into the future with hope and confidence.

Fellow citizens, early municipal elections will be organized in 1993. [address ends with Koranic verse in Arabic]

Morocco

General Elections Scheduled For 30 Apr 1993

LD2511214792 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Minister of Interior and Information Driss Basri informs the public that His Majesty's Government has decided to hold the general legislative elections on Friday 30 April 1993. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Reaction to Troop Deployment in Somalia Reported

Foreign Minister Questions Act

EA0112102592 Khartoum SUNA in English 1635 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] Khartoum, 1 Dec (SUNA)—The foreign minister, Ali Ahmed Sabbil, has said that the number of international forces that the U.N. would send to Somalia put at 40,000 troops is too big for such a small country. Sabbil was commenting on statements by the U.N. secretary-general that the organization plans to deploy 40,000 troops in Somalia so as to secure conveying humanitarian aid to the war-affected people there. In his press statement to SUNA, the foreign minister described [the] number of such forces as inconsistent with both the small size of Somalia and the purpose for their existence there.

The Sudan, said Sabbil, wonders why the U.N. ignores viewpoints of the countries at the area of the Horn of Africa, especially those which have been exerting intensive efforts toward reaching an end for the problem. He said that the countries at the area had formed an ad hoc committee to follow up closely the situation in Somalia and to cooperate with the U.N. and OAU for containing the conflict in Somalia and helping its people restore [the] security, stability and sovereignty of their country.

Sabbil pointed out that any large-scale military operation in Somalia will definitely affect the other countries at the area of the Horn of Africa, saying that large numbers of Somalis will then seek refuge in neighbouring countries and pose [a] heavy burden to these countries. The U.N. is supposed to conduct consultations with the countries neighbouring Somalia so as to avert the hazards that may ensue from aggravating the situation in Somalia through implementing big military operations, Sabbil said.

He indicated that the matter appears astonishing when the U.N. escalates its concern with the Somali problem to [the] extent that it ushers huge forces in the small country, and in the same time keeps a blind eye on the massacres being committed in Bosnia- Herzegovina. The foreign minister said that the Sudan did not take part at the meeting of the foreign ministers of Muslim countries because the Sudan is fully convinced that the meeting will not reach positive recommendations and decisions.

U.S. Intervention Viewed

EA0212211892 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] [Announcer] We present the following news analysis written by our press correspondent, 'Abd al-Rahman Ahmadun, on the entry into Somalia of U.S. forces at the orders of George Bush during his last days in the White House, and on how this move will impinge on the administration of his democratic successor, Bill Clinton. Al-Zubayr 'Uthman Ahmad:

[Zubayr] People everywhere ask about the U.S. Administration's sudden interest [words indistinct]. Events in Somalia have reached such a pitch as to prompt the administration into hastening to send tens of thousands of its troops to this region, one already (?impoverished) by hostilities, epidemics, and famines. The administration is doing so after rejecting all the appeals of the Islamic states to send these forces to Bosnia-Herzegovina, where Muslims are exposed to continuing massacres.

Is President Bush enjoying his last days of his term of office, which began by sending American forces to Panama and then to the Gulf, by rounding it off with a permanent American presence in the Horn of Africa astride the southern entrance of the most important waterway in the world? Or does he want to embroil his successor, Bill Clinton, with his Democratic Party, in a crisis that will consume all his time and energy during the coming four years and erode the popularity he gained from the services [misread] operation [as heard], which will certainly happen if the U.S. administration persists with its designs and the provocative course it applied in the Gulf? These are the questions that have been revolving in the mind of every observer of events in the region since the last days of the first Gulf war.

But the question everyone is seeking the answer to is: What does America want from Somalia? Is this region important to America's strategy to the extent that America has cast about for anything that could justify

entering it? What everyone agrees on is that the last thing the United States is thinking about is humanitarianism or the delivery of aid, because the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina is more pressing and in greater need of the use of military force.

Why did the United States ignore all the hungry except those in Somalia? America's interest in Somalia was not born today. On the contrary, it goes back to the days of Somali President Siad Barre, who was betrayed by his Soviet allies when they favored his adversary, Mengistu. Barre then threw himself into the arms of America and gave it all the Soviet bases, which was more than America had asked for. Then America found itself enjoying a military presence in a strategic region near oil fields and in control of the international shipping lanes between Asia, the Middle East, and Europe, as well as being near the rich region in Africa. [not further specified]

The region's importance increased after the collapse of Marxism as America no longer felt impelled to increase the number of those rejecting Marxism. Moreover, America's interest in Southeast Asia also waned because fear of its falling into Communist hands had abated. Then the political component of U.S. foreign policy contracted with the economic factor gaining dominance, as was proven by the second Gulf war.

One needs to realize that by intervening in Somalia, America is not only trying to pressure some states of the region seen to oppose its influence but is also addressing a message to some of its European allies now grouping to form an economic giant rivaling America. It wants to tell them: I am standing in the oil fields and the sea lanes of the oil tankers, controlling the most important sea lane in the world. In short, your destiny is in my hands. Some Europeans have understood the message, but have we?

Action Will Postpone Solution

EA0212202592 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and of the Council of Ministers, has affirmed that the unexpected escalation of the events in Somalia and the UN secretary general's decision to send 20,000 troops in addition to 30,000 American troops will lead to the entrenchment of the conflict and the postponement of a solution to the Somali problem. His excellency said this in his office this morning at the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers during a meeting with media leaders.

Lt. Gen. 'Umar added that the situation had arisen out of a clash between the interests of the peoples of the region and those of the states seeking a foothold there. His excellency stressed that foreign intervention in Somalia on such a scale would exacerbate the problem, saying events could have taken a better course had the OAU resolution been adhered to in cooperation with the committee comprising the foreign ministers of the states of the Horn of Africa and the United Nations. He explained that the resolution on ending the problem once and for all had been welcomed by all Somali factions. Lt. Gen. 'Umar appealed to the relevant authorities at the regional and international levels not to escalate the problem. He said stability had actually begun to burgeon in Somalia, but support in this direction was needed. His excellency called for the support to be applied to the development of the infrastructures destroyed by the war.

Lt. Gen. 'Umar also referred to [Sudanese People's Liberation Army leader John] Garang's statement at his news conference to the effect that he refused to sit with dissidents at the negotiation table, pointing out that Garang was thereby evading participation in the negotiations because he opposed the efforts being made to achieve peace and end the war. His excellency called on all the southern factions to participate so that the dialogue would not be confined to those bearing arms. [passage omitted]

Judiciary Head Says No Iranian Forces in Sudan

EA0212135792 Khartoum SUNA in English 1020 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] Khartoum, 2 Dec (SUNA)—The visiting Iranian chief justice, Ayatollah Yazdi, has affirmed that the allegations on presence of Iranian forces in the Sudan were false and aimed at demoralising the two Muslim peoples and disseminating Satanic views at the area. Speaking at a press conference he held at the Friendship Hall [in Khartoum] Tuesday [1 December] Ayatollah Yazdi said that strengthening of the ties between the Sudan and Iran is endeavoured to boosting implementation of Islamic shari'ah. He stated that the relations between his country and the Gulf countries are based on mutual respect, stressing that Iran maintains no intention to fight or to attack any of the neighbouring Gulf countries.

Iran, said Ayatollah Yazdi, has been working for narrowing the differences between the Muslim sects, explaining that the differences between these sects are few.

Sudan's ambassador to Iran has emphasised at the press conference that the Sudan and Iran are extending aid to the Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina, adding that the coming meeting of the Muslim foreign ministers should press on the United Nations to allow Bosnians get arms for defending themselves.

Senior Official in Garang Faction Defects

AB0212151592 London BBC World Service in English 1830 GMT 1 Dec 92

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] The Torit faction of southern Sudan's SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] rebels has been hit by the defection of yet another senior official. Its leader,

John Garang, has already parted company with his former deputy, William Nyuon, and now the head of the SPLA's political department, (Alfred Ladi-Gore), who has already had differences with Garang, has also left. He spent three years in detention until last February, and was recently sent on assignment to Nairobi. On the line, Mick Slatter asked (Ladi-Gore) why he is leaving the rebel movement:

[Begin recording] [(Ladi-Gore)] Because of Garang's continuous abuse of human rights within the SPLA and also outside the movement.

[Slatter] When you say human abuses, can you be a little more specific? What do you mean exactly?

[(Ladi-Gore)] Last month, a number of Equatorian officers were summarily executed by Garang's closest colleagues, namely (Isas Fakhir Mayuddi), who is now his chief of staff, and Commander (Wol Malong). These two commanders were responsible for the ghastly murder of 28 Equatorians in the area of Achuli and Madi.

[Slatter] So you are claiming human rights abuses is one reason why you have left. What other reasons were enough to push you out of John Garang's faction?

[(Ladi-Gore)] Well, Garang—in line with his militarist policy—initiated the attack on Juba some months ago, despite the fact that many officers, commanders, advised against the attack on Juba and, the world knows, Garang went on to attack Juba and that resulted into [as heard] unnecessary losses on the part of civilians.

[Slatter] So you feel John Garang should not have carried out the offensive on Juba?

[(Ladi-Gore)] He should have listened to the commanders, to the advice they gave.

[Slatter] Now you have left John Garang. Have you joined William Nyuon's faction?

[(Ladi-Gore)] I have joined the William Nyuon faction because William Nyuon has been actually fighting hard for the unity of the movement. As you know, it was Garang's (?old) policies of dictatorship that led to the split of Nasir in 1991, and subsequently the movement was divided. It became weaker and weaker. This, of course, was resented by many people who demanded that the movement should be reunited.

[Slatter] Can I put it to you [that] the reason why you left John Garang was simply that the John Garang faction is doing very badly? In a sense you are leaving a sinking ship.

[(Ladi-Gore)] I don't think that is a good reason for me to leave him. The reasons I have enlisted are definitely very fundamental. If Garang had listened to the advice given by many commanders, including myself, I am sure from the beginning—since 1984—the movement would not have reached the situation in which it is now.

[Slatter] Can I ask you: What is the very latest news you have on fighting between the two factions? We know in the past there have been clashes. Can you report any sort of very recent clashes between the two factions?

[Ladi-Gore] It is not a week ago that Garang provoked William. [sentence as heard] He sent troops to attack William, and William of course retaliated. As a result, several towns in eastern Equatoria—like Ikotos, (Ieoke)—all these have fallen now to William's forces. They are called Unity Forces. [end recording]

Saddam Receives Dhi Qar Group, Promises Firearms

JN0212173192 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1632 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Dec (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has affirmed that the weapons in the possession of the state are tools that are accessible to all sons of the people, to be used in defending their honor and sovereignty, repulsing any adversity targeting their national soil, carrying out good deeds, and fending off evil from Iraq.

His excellency the president promised a delegation of tribal chieftains representing al-Rifa'i District in Dhi Qar Governorate in southern Iraq, during a reception accorded them today, that the leadership will meet their demand for arming their tribesmen. He entrusted God that these weapons will be used on joyous occasions, to do what is good, and to confront the treacherous ones who are being manipulated by foreigners. His excellency the president added: Thus, these weapons will enable you to safeguard your country and vindicate men's honor.

Leader President Saddam Husayn urged the state organs, party officials, tribes, and all citizens to achieve the best possible coordination among themselves, and to establish a positive relationship with one another in the interest of the country and its security, safety, and sovereignty. He added that this coordination and cohesion must reign supreme.

His excellency the president held Ba'thist strugglers responsible for extending the basic part of required services to the people. He also viewed them as the party primarily responsible for shouldering the responsibilities of protecting the security of the state and citizens, and also for strengthening existing ties between the various strata of society, on the one hand, and state institutions on the other. He characterized the Ba'th Party as the tribe encompassing all tribes.

It is to be recalled that His Excellency President Saddam Husayn received a copy of a treaty signed by the tribes of the Suq al-Shuyukh District in Dhi Qar Governorate the day before yesterday. In that document the signatories pledged to defend Iraq's national soil and confront the scheme of infiltration, sabotage, and partition, and sanctioned the shedding of the blood of any of their sons whose betrayal of the homeland is proven. The signatories of that document also pledged that all their tribesmen will continue to fight under the banner of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

Saddam Decorates Men for Confronting 'Infiltrators'

JN0212180992 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, has said that the Ba'thist's next of kin are not merely his blood relatives. Indeed, he noted, wherever there is a Ba'thist official, all people are the Ba'thist's next of kin and relatives. The Ba'thist official and the people around him maintain the best of ties that could exist among relatives, with the exception of those prohibited by God, the leader president added.

His excellency the president said: The best that the Ba'thists could aspire for, after obtaining God's satisfaction, is to obtain the satisfaction of people in this homeland. As for the satisfaction of God and people, it is the height of pride for all strugglers, be they people granted martyrdom by God or people granted longevity so that they may continue with the struggle.

The leader president made these remarks at a ceremony where he awarded a number of strugglers of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, fighters within the state organs, tribal chieftains, and several citizens with medals of honor in appreciation of their role in confronting an infiltrating treasonous and agent clique, whose sinful hands attacked a party struggler in al-Rifa'i District to assassinate him. This elite group of fighters, with the help of the people's masses, managed to pursue these criminals, surround and punish some of them, and capture the remainder of the clique's members.

The honoring ceremony was attended by Presidential Office Chief Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi and fighter Staff General Iyad Futayyih Khalifah al-Rawi.

1 Killed, 17 Injured in al-Sulaymaniyah Explosion

NC0212173492 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] Al-Sulaymaniyah—As part of the enemy's attempts to shake stability and security in Kurdistan, a booby-trapped car exploded in front of the Mardin Market at (Hassat) at 0801 today. One person was martyred and 17 others, including four women and a nine-month-old baby, were injured in the criminal act, which also damaged about 33 shops in the market and a number of homes. Several cars were severely damaged as well. According to initial investigations, the explosive charge contained about 5 kg of TNT.

Regime Storms Marshlands, Arrests Women

NC0212173392 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] Last week, forces belonging to tyrant Saddam Husayn's regime stormed the (al-Mazabb) area, which lies parallel to the al-Basrah Governorate marshland. The forces carried out a large-scale arrest and aggression campaign as well.

A large number of women were arrested, one of whom was 65 years old. The authorities are still holding these women in the al-Basrah Registration Department because the prisons and detention centers are full.

The subdistrict of al-Hawayr in al-Basrah was also subject to a large-scale arrest campaign by the regime's henchmen. These campaigns targeted scores of innocent citizens and dumped them into secret detention centers.

The al-Basrah area is suffering from problems, including the lack of food and medicines due to the regime's tightening of the siege on residents of this region and the southern marshlands, and the general terror campaigns the regime is carrying out against the citizens.

U.S. Said Trying To Dominate Somalia Region

JN0212150992 Baghdad INA in English 1310 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] Baghdad, Dec. 2, INA—An Iraqi newspaper today said that proposed American intervention into Somalia was after dominating the region overlooking the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean and preparing the ground for tightening grip over the Sudan and Yemen.

AL-THAWRAH newspaper, organ of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party said in an article titled "Somalia on the List of Occupation" said that American intentions toward Somalia were represented in its occupation, confirmed by the international cover that was offered by the U.N. secretary general over this armed intervention which is also supported by the Security Council.

The paper pointed out that as usual Washington had covered this intrusion with humanitarian covers while in fact this mission was after intensifying the new colonialist hegemony in the region.

UN Envoy Calls US Policy 'Double Standard'

JN0312101992 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0815 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] United Nations, 3 Dec (INA)—Iraq has denounced the double-standard policy practiced by the United States under the slogan of the so-called new world order. This came in a speech delivered by Iraq's representative 'Adnan (?Mahdi Nasif) at the UN General Assembly during its session on the Palestine question.

Iraq's representative said: The so-called new international order is neither an order, international, nor new. This order is not based on uniform criteria nor does it represent the entire international community. It is an attempt to return to the loathsome imperialist age.

The Iraqi official added that the U.S. unlimited support for the racist Zionist entity represents the worst picture of the double-standard policies and the falsehood of the so-called new order. He noted that when the issue of the Zionist occupation is raised the false slogans raised to destroy Iraq and impose inhumane blockade on its people completely disappear; the United Nations ceases to exist; the calls for resorting to Chapter 7 of the UN Charter vanish; international legitimacy is not mentioned; and the call for boycotting the Zionist entity—which possesses mass destruction weapons, including the nuclear arsenal—are ignored.

Iraq's representative to the UN General Assembly stressed that double standards will not succeed because in the Arab homeland there is one genuine nation which rejects occupation and foreign control and adheres to its legitimate rights to territory, people, resources, and dignity. He reiterated Iraq's support for the Palestinian people and their struggle to achieve their inalienable legitimate rights, and for the brave Palestinian intifadah against the Zionist occupation.

UN Informed of Kuwaiti 'Violations' in Zone

JN0512203992 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] The United Nations, 2 Dec (INA)—Iraq has officially informed the United Nations of new facts regarding kidnappings, detentions, and thefts conducted by the henchmen of the regime imposed on Kuwait in the demilitarized zone.

An official letter addressed to the UN secretary general by Ambassador Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations, and circulated here today as an official Security Council document said that Kuwaiti police opened fire on Iraqi fishermen near Jazirat (?Shuham) on 3 November, kidnapped eight fishermen, stole their sea [word indistinct], and towed them to Jazirat Warbah.

The letter added that the Kuwaiti side on 1 October kidnapped two Iraqi soldiers while they were collecting firewood in front of the Talhah Police Station. They are Corporal 'Imad Hamwah Husayn and conscript 'Ali Muhammad Karim.

The letter also spoke of other violations committed by elements of the regime imposed on Kuwait, including the opening of fire on the Jirishan Police Station and infiltration into a naval base and returning to areas deep inside Kuwaiti territory after having been spotted by UN observers.

Knesset Approves First Reading of PLO Bill

TA0212192792 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Report by Knesset correspondent Ya'aqov Ahime'ir]

[Excerpt] Only minutes ago, the Knesset approved the first reading of the bill permitting meetings with PLO officials. SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] MK's [Knesset members] voted against the bill; therefore there was a dispute over whether to hold the vote. At the last minute, Minister 'Uzi Bar'am arrived in the Knesset and thereby decided the vote on the first reading of the bill: 37 voted in favor of the amendment while 36 opposed it. The opposition was optimistic even shortly before the vote was taken that the amendment presented by Justice Minister David Liba'i would not be passed. [passage omitted]

'Abd-al-Shafi Comments on Bill

TA0312111092 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 3 Dec 92 p 2

[Report by Mikhal Sela']

[Text] The amendment of the law banning meetings between Israelis and the PLO has sparked great interest—even greater than the release of several hundred prisoners as a goodwill gesture—among Palestinians in the territories and in Tunis, who view the abolishment of the ban as a step in the direction of official recognition of the PLO.

Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, chief Palestinian delegate to the peace talks, followed yesterday's Knesset debate from his Gaza home. According to him, "the abolition of the law will be a major contribution to the peace process. This move will pave the way for a more direct connection between the PLO on the one hand and Israelis in general and Israeli officials on the other. Contacts and meetings have existed, but when they were held in defiance of the law, they had a different significance," 'Abd-al-Shafi said. "When the law is abolished, first Knesset members from every faction, later ministers, and eventually even the prime minister will be able to hold official, overt meetings. The PLO leadership in Tunis is very interested in closer ties with Israelis. The invitations extended to Israeli Arabs and Jews to visit Tunis over the past few months have to be seen in this context."

'Abd-al-Shafi does not rule out the possibility that the abolition of the antiterror law will make the resumption of an official U.S.-PLO dialogue possible. "The United States may have refrained from resuming the official dialogue because it did not want to embarrass Israel, which has a law prohibiting such a dialogue. The abolition of this law will make it easier on the United States as well."

Referring to the resumption of talks in Washington, 'Abd-al-Shafi said that so far he has not received any conclusive message from Tunis, but he hopes that despite all the difficulties, the message will arrive, enabling him to leave for the United States on Saturday night. "I know that as long as the transition in the U.S. Administration is not complete, we cannot expect significant progress, but it is important that we continue to meet and hold discussions."

Palestinian Sources Welcome Action

TA0212203192 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2030 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] Palestinian sources in the territories have welcomed the Knesset's approval of the first reading of the amendment to the law banning meetings with the PLO. The sources said this was a positive step, which could indicate a change in the Israeli Government's position with regard to the direct participation of the PLO in the peace process. Our Arab affairs correspondent Eldad Beck reports that the sources believe that the Knesset's decision may also facilitate the resumption of the official dialogue between the United States and the PLO.

Abu-Sharif Interviewed on Vote

TA0212092792 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Dec 92 p A2

[Interview with PLO official Bassam Abu-Sharif by Gay Bekhor in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] [Bekhor] The Knesset will hold a vote on 2 December that will probably cancel the ban on meetings with PLO personnel. What is your reaction?

[Abu-Sharif] The Knesset vote, if it indeed revokes the law, is a major positive step forward. It will make the peace process healthier. The Knesset vote will correct a past mistake which prevented meetings between Israelis and Palestinians. This mistake only damaged the rapprochement between the two nations.

[Bekhor] Does the PLO believe that this step is the beginning of a rapprochement between the Rabin government and the organization in Tunis?

[Abu-Sharif] This was part of the Labor platform. I am happy that the bill was presented, although it was made late. If the Knesset members vote to cancel the legislation, it will be an important step forward. In any event, we cannot wait any longer. Meetings between senior PLO members and Israeli officials must begin right away. It is the obvious thing now.

[Bekhor] You speak of meetings between PLO officials and Israelis. I expect that you are aware of the distinction the PLO is making between casual meetings, mainly with Israeli left-wing members, and official negotiations?

[Abu-Sharif] Yes, we do have this distinction. There is no doubt that there is nothing new about meetings between PLO members and the Israeli left. Many such meetings were held in the past, and the PLO and the Israeli left agree on many issues. Nevertheless, if we want real achievements, there is no way to avoid direct talks between the highest levels of the Israeli Government and the Palestinian leadership.

[Bekhor] When Israeli figures wanted to meet with PLO people, the Palestine National Council [PNC] forbade it, and there have been political assassination attempts by Abu-Nidal's people. Later, the tables turned: You were interested, but the Israeli Government cast a ban. Today the wishes are practically unanimous. What is your opinion of this fickleness?

[Abu-Sharif] Twenty years ago, the Palestinian camp was indeed largely radical. I am not saying this epoch is over, but now the radicals are a minority, with the moderates having taken the lead. I hope that Israel will be able to read this map, that Rabin's government will take steps befitting the policy of peace.

[Bekhor] Yasir 'Arafat has offered to meet with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. How significant could such a meeting be?

[Abu-Sharif] I sincerely hope that such a meeting will take place, that Prime Minister Rabin will muster the courage and the wisdom to accept Yasir 'Arafat's proposal and to hold an Israeli-Palestinian meeting at the highest level. Such an encounter can be most instrumental in bridging the gaps between positions and in removing obstacles, for your sakes as well as ours, for this and future generations.

[Bekhor] There is still loud opposition in the Palestinian camp—mainly the religious Palestinian camp and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]—to meetings with Israelis and to the peace process. Will Israel be able to assume that it can do business with the Palestinians without risking even more radical opposition? How do you people in Tunis cope with this opposition?

[Abu-Sharif] We, PLO people, uphold democracy perhaps even more than others. We have opposition, that is true, but a majority of 87 percent of the Palestine National Council—the Palestinian parliament—voted for the peace process. Well, there is a minority of 13 percent. We are not against this minority; it exists and it has its opinion. There is a similar opposition in the Knesset, which objects to the peace process. Still, the radical minorities on both sides must not be allowed to interfere with the moderate majority's work toward establishing a joint course for the benefit of future generations.

[Bekhor] What about you personally? You have held numerous meetings with Israelis over the years. Will you still do it in the future, when the law is abolished?

[Abu-Sharif] Yes. I remember that Yossi Beilin once participated in a symposium in Rome. He adhered to the letter of the law and did not speak to me. At that time I said that if the law is abolished, Palestinians and Israelis will be able to remove the obstacles between them.

In any event, I am ready to meet with any Israeli minister who is prepared to hold such important meetings, to stop the bloodshed, and to build peace between us and you for both your sakes and ours.

Palestinian Self-Government Plans Detailed

TA021214089Z Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Dec 92 p B2

[Report by Dani Rubinstein]

[Text] The building of East Jerusalem's Orient House is the site where the "Palestinian government," a body thus designated by residents of the territories either in jest or in earnest, is being gradually assembled. At the beginning of this week, Dr. Sari Nusaybah and the staff coordinating the Palestinian professional committees' work, declared the building as their permanent abode. They were joined by Faysal al-Husayni and members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, as well as heads of teams preparing the future Palestinian administration apparatuses.

For several months, some 200 experts and professionals in various spheres have been busy preparing a plan for the establishment of a Palestinian administration. Occasionally, they are asked to advise delegates to bilateral and multilateral negotiations, but most of their work bears no connection to the political talks.

Besides Nusaybah, there is a council which steers the teams' work. It is composed of Nusaybah's deputy, Hasan Abu-Libdah, a Bir Zayt University mathematics professor and an official member of the delegation; Dr. Mustafa al-Barghuthi from Ramallah; Labib Nashashibi from Jerusalem; and several other dignitaries, each of whom is in charge of a professional field. There are 30 such fields—from economy, energy, land and water planning, to services such as education, health, welfare, and communications. Every team comprises some 10 experts who meet two or three times a month and share the task of preparing document files. Sometimes the experts are assisted by Palestinian professionals from abroad.

The teams start their work with a thorough survey of the situation, followed by an examination of the legal system governing the given sphere. At that point, they define their objectives and examine ways of achieving them.

The state of the Palestinian education system, for instance, is quite good. It comprises schools sponsored by the government, UNRWA [UN Relief and Works Agency] schools, private schools, and higher education institutions. After the relevant team inspected the education networks—from kindergartens to universities—in the West Bank and Gaza, it amassed and studied all the Israeli Army decrees relating to the issue of education, which are part of the territories' legislation. These decrees include, for instance, instructions concerning curriculums; when the Palestinians take over the education ministry in the territories, they will want to revoke or amend these decrees.

Unlike the already operating education system, the team addressing the Palestinian police field had to prepare a preliminary layout. When its details were published some time ago, it came under severe criticism. The team's suggestion to set up a particularly large police

force immediately gave rise to the suspicion that it will become PLO mainstream's (Fatah) private army to be used by the organization against its rivals (mainly left-wing opposition and the Muslim bloc). Yasir 'Arafat was forced to intervene. He requested that the presentation of the team's final report be postponed. One of the team members, Mustafa 'Adawi, has recently published conciliatory explanations in the East Jerusalem press, according to which the Palestinian police force will be based on democratic principles, adherence to the law and will not be used to oppress political groups.

The task of the teams dealing with economy and infrastructure is particularly complex. Hydrologist Hisham Abu-Faris, member of the team dealing with water issues, has recently written a paper summing up plans of producing energy from canals running from the Mediterranean or the Gulf of Eilat to the Dead Sea. Other members have examined desalinization of sea water. The heads of the Palestinian teams, however, demand that before these plans are negotiated, an agreement in principle be made with Israel regarding the distribution of water rights between the two sides. The team examined the current situation in general terms, assessing the amounts of water consumed by the parties and their sources. The water team experts fear that if they begin constructing a desalinization plant in Gaza, or if they reach an agreement with Egypt on a water line from al-'Arish to Rafah, they might find themselves at an inferior position when they reach negotiations with Israel about the distribution of water rights. The Palestinian water experts are participating in the multilateral committees and examining the various offers forwarded there.

The teams have prepared a document on electricity, noting that almost all of the electricity supply comes from the Israel Electric Corporation. There are 18 points where the Israeli grid is connected to the West Bank and Gaza, and the team has examined when and how these connections could be cut off and reconnected to sources east of the Jordan River or to power plants that would be set up in the territories.

A similar work has been done by the economic teams. One of them has already prepared a quite-finite plan for the establishment of a Palestinian central bank with the help of local and foreign financiers and the assistance of foreign countries.

There is a problem of locating and training a professional personnel. Members of all the teams are worried that in the territories there are not enough skilled men to assume all the functions and jobs held today by Israeli clerks, executives, and experts. Because the Palestinians have never had an administration of their own—there were no large financial or banking establishments nor central headquarters of the various public services—many of the able and talented Palestinians migrated and became directors general and senior officials in Jordan and other Arab countries. They will now have to be located and convinced to return to the territories.

At the same time, the teams are training skilled personnel. This is being done with the help of scholarships and aid of foreign countries. When French President Francois Mitterrand visited Israel last week, the Palestinians were promised French aid in training personnel to set up a communications system in the West Bank and Gaza, as well as financial aid amounting to several million francs. The Canadian Government also helps train experts to run archeological parks and sites, and German Government agencies are currently conducting courses training local television personnel. The directorate of the professional teams is currently seeking international funds that could help train people in the various fields.

As a rule, the teams do not favor exposing their work. They were instructed not to let foreigners, mainly Israelis, intervene for fear that Israel might try to guide the work to satisfy its own interests. They believe that in most civilian fields, unrelated to foreign and security matters, the Palestinian work has to be totally independent because the decisive consideration should be the good of the Palestinian population. In any event, the members of the teams feel that they are preparing the infrastructure for a sovereign Palestinian government, which would in no way be a professional system operating in the shadow of or alongside the Israeli Administration.

Peres Reportedly Met Tunisian Counterpart

TA0212174892 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 2 Dec 92 p 1

[Report by Smadar Peri]

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya conferred secretly three months ago in New York.

During the meeting, the Tunisian minister suggested hosting in his country the round of regional negotiations on refugees. Peres made it clear that the PLO presence in that country "constitutes a problem."

The Tunisian delegate to the refugee talks, Sa'id Ben-Mustafa, who is director general of the Tunisian Foreign Ministry, reissued the invitations to members of the Israeli delegation to the negotiations two weeks ago in Ottawa, Canada. Ben-Mustafa even reminded the Israelis that his country has been the courier of peace messages to Israel.

An "agreement in principle" to come to a round of talks in Tunis was transmitted to Tunis in recent days, on conditions that the principle that "the PLO continues to take a low profile" is maintained.

As far as is known, the next round of talks on the refugee issue will be held in Ottawa in February, and the following one some six weeks later in Tunis.

Foreign Minister Peres Visits Austria

WA0312111092

For reportage on the visit to Austria by Foreign Minister Peres, including his talks with Austrian President Klestil, see the Austria section of the 3 December West Europe DAILY REPORT.

Shamir Undergoes "Successful" Intestinal Surgery

TA0312114892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] Knesset Member [MK] Yitzhaq Shamir this morning underwent intestinal surgery at the Sheba Medical Center. The operation was successful.

Dr. Ya'aqov Yahav, the Sheba Medical Center deputy director general, told our correspondent 'Ofra Nehemad that MK Shamir required intestinal surgery because of bleeding in his digestive system. He will be released within a few days.

German Ambassador Urges Continued Dialogue

TA0212200192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1703 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] A short time ago, Germany's Ambassador to Israel Otto von der Gablentz called on Israel and Germany to pursue their dialogue and not to close geographic or intellectual borders. He made these remarks in a lecture at the Park Hotel in Tel Aviv. Our correspondent Dan Eldad reports:

[Begin recording] [Eldad] Ambassador von der Gablentz once again cautioned about a rift between the two countries and their people. He said: If we do that, we will be playing into the hands of the extreme right-wingers who want Germany for the Germans. Their calls run totally counter to the democracy in postwar Germany, the ambassador stated. He added in an aside:

[Von Der Gablentz, in English:] Quite apart, as a side remark: Closing our borders in Germany and really believing as the neo-Nazis ask us to believe—Germany for the Germans—would mean economic suicide. All of a sudden, all our welfare would drop away, if we closed our borders the way they demand. I do think there is good reason that people in Germany will realize where their interests are and, hopefully, also where their heart and their human convictions are. [end recording]

Moroccan King Praised for Humanitarian Gesture

TA0212202692 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Morocco's King Hassan II approved a request by Yitzhaq Rabin, the prime minister and defense minister, and in an extraordinary humanitarian gesture, permitted to bring for burial in Israel the bodies of 22 illegal emigrants aboard the vessel Egoz who drowned at sea in 1961 on their way from Morocco to Israel. Forty-two people drowned in the disaster, and the bodies of 22 were recovered from the sea. The coffins of the Jewish illegal emigrants arrived tonight in a special plane.

Mr. Rabin thanked the Moroccan king for the gesture and expressed his appreciation for his humanitarian action after many years of aborted attempts to bring the bones for burial in Israel. The prime minister said it is yet another step on the road to reconciliation and peace with the Arab states.

The Jewish community in Morocco, Israeli emissaries, and organizations and public figures in Israel and around the world participated in the effort and devoted years to the efforts to bring the bodies for eternal rest here. [passage omitted]

Hundreds of Hamas Activists Detained in West Bank

TA0312115892 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Dec 92 p A1

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Text] Hundreds of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists have been detained recently in an extensive operation carried out by the security forces in the West Bank. Some of the prisoners are being held under administrative detention, while others will be charged with terrorist activity.

According to a security source, approximately two months ago Yitzhaq Rabin, the prime minister and defense minister, ordered defense elements to do everything possible to reduce the level of violence in the territories and to enable the peace talks to be conducted tranquilly. Rabin said the objective is "to keep the territories out of the limelight."

Several senior activists from the organization's West Bank branch were apprehended in the course of the operations. The security source said that the recent arrests have already affected the situation in the West Bank, where Hamas activities have abated.

Security elements have said, however, that terrorist squads belonging to Hamas, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Fatah, and the Islamic Jihad continue to operate in the territories.

In recent weeks, some 30 activists belonging to the Islamic Jihad have been apprehended in the territories. Almost 3,000 Hamas activists, including the movement's spiritual leader, Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, have been detained since the beginning of the intifadah. The Gaza Military Court sentenced Yasin to life in prison for his involvement in launching terrorist operations against IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops. Among other charges, he was convicted of dispatching the killers of soldiers Ilan Sa'adon and Avi Sasportas.

King Hussyn Interviewed on Iraq, Health Condition

JN0312151292 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] His Majesty King Hussyn has said: We are looking for a comprehensive and just solution to the regional conflict, particularly the Palestinian dimension of the conflict, which must be resolved on Palestinian national soil.

In an interview with AFP, his majesty the king added: Peacemaking in the Middle East should not be the monopoly of one party or more. Hence, the French and European roles are welcomed in this regard.

His majesty the king called for continued Arab contacts and coordination so that we might reach our joint objective of achieving a just and peaceful solution that future generations can accept and safeguard.

His majesty the king added: We will continue our efforts to establish the foundations of an institutionalized state so that the march may continue and so that Jordan may remain an example and a model to be emulated by its brothers and others in the world at large, in terms of the democratic course it is pursuing and its contributions to shouldering responsibilities within the context of the one family we belong to and take pride in.

His Majesty King Hussyn went on to say: We support the unity of Iraq—the people and the territory—so that it may enjoy stability and manage to forge a national reconciliation encompassing the Iraqi people who are dear to all of us. Iraq is our support and depth. Iraq is an effective and influential element of the Arab existence.

His majesty the king said that Jordan welcomes the convening of an Arab summit. He hoped that it would be convened in the near future.

His majesty King Hussyn affirmed that his health condition is good. He believed that he has recuperated in a manner that neither he nor his doctors believed would be expected in terms of his performance of his work and responsibilities. He affirmed that he is optimistic and assured in this regard.

New Gun Licensing Laws Introduced

JN0112081892 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 1 Dec 92 p 1

[Excerpt] Amman (Petra)—The government Monday introduced set of regulations designed to control the possession and use of firearms and entrusted provincial governors and the Ministry of Interior to deal with matters related to these orders.

A statement issued by Ministry of Interior said that as "the country is entering a new phase characterized by forgiveness and tolerance as manifested in the royal amnesty issued by His Majesty King Hussyn earlier this month, and in a bid to ensure the continued drive to bolster the atmosphere of democracy and freedom and to ensure that nothing can mar security in the country," it was introducing the new regulations on the possession of arms in the Kingdom.

The statement, issued following a meeting held at the ministry presided over by Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, noted that the regulations were also aimed at putting an end to firing during celebrations and to ensure protection for the country and its citizens.

The regulations said:

—The government will license only revolvers, pistols and hunting rifles;

—People possessing these types of firearms should acquire related licenses from police before the end of January 1993;

—All other firearms are banned. Those who possess them should hand them over to the nearest police station or a people's army centre before the end of January 1993;

—All collected firearms will be kept safe in army depots and will be used in times of need by the concerned authorities under government supervision after a government order is given for their use;

—As of Feb. 1, 1993, no-one can possess any unlicensed firearm. Violators of these regulations will be prosecuted;

—The Minister of Interior and security services as well as the people's army centres will embark on necessary measures to facilitate the process of issuing licenses for pistols and for receiving the banned weapons as of Dec. 1, 1992. [passage omitted]

Paper Questions Intentions Behind Jeddah Meeting

JN0112161192 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 1 Dec 92 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "For The Muslims of Bosnia, Against The Muslims of Iraq"]

[Text] Besides a handful of Islamic states, the rest of the states, which will meet in Jeddah today, are practicing limitless hypocrisy and are perpetrating heinous things that cannot even be compared to those atrocities against the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Those who have been besieging the Iraqi people for 27 months are not Crusaders, Moguls, Tatars, pagans, or apostates. They are Muslims who will meet in Jeddah today to pretend that they lament over the Muslims of Bosnia and to shed crocodile tears over their children, elders, and youths forgetting how many tens of thousands of Iraqi children died at their hands out of thirst for a glass of milk and out of hunger for a piece of bread. They also forget that tens of thousands of sick Iraqi

people died at their hands because no medicine reached them as a result of the blockade imposed on them by their faithful brothers and that these brothers along with a corrupt handful of Western states still insist on slaughtering and annihilating the Iraqis.

Those in Jeddah instead of meeting under the banner of Islam are meeting under the false banner of international legitimacy. They do not rise to rescue our brothers in Bosnia in response to the instructions of the Koran and the blessed sunnah of the Prophet but in response to the instructions of the United States and President Bush and in response to the unjust resolutions of the U.S. Security Council.

Hence, it is hard for us to believe that there are good intentions behind their meeting. We also do not consider their convening it as a sign that there is an Islamic concern to prevent the collapse of another part of the Islamic body. It is a wicked meeting and a false conference that finds in the sufferings of the Muslims of Bosnia an opportunity to practice more hypocrisy and to totally ignore the suffering of the Muslims of Iraq. It is a meeting and a conference that will surely pave the way for something we fear, just like what happened when Arab leaders called for the Cairo summit and just like what happened when Muslim leaders called for a summit and a framework, and came out canceling the duty of Jihad and maintaining the decision of death, hunger, and sickness they made against the great people of Iraq.

In Jeddah today, there will be a great deal of false talk about the suffering of the Muslims in Yugoslavia, perhaps about their sufferings in the Soviet republics too, and even about the hardships they encounter on the Moon and Mars. But, will anyone dare to say a word about the suffering of the Muslims of Iraq? No one will dare call for a stand that will be in line with Islam, logic, and morals by supporting our brothers who are suffering here and there, but with the glaring difference that those who are suffering in Iraq are suffering from our own doing, we the Arabs and Muslims, who only make claims and attempt sovereignship.

What will the Jeddah statement to be issued either today or tomorrow say? We will know this. We cannot but repeat here that God is our only resort, that oil can only bring about weakness and shame, and that God will champion His faithful followers.

Israeli, Kuwaiti Racism Against Palestinians Seen

JN3011124992 Amman AL-RAY in Arabic 30 Nov 92 pp 1, 25

[Editorial: "On the Day of Solidarity With Ones Self]

[Text] We do not declare solidarity with the Palestinian people simply as someone declares solidarity with his brother, his neighbor, or his friend. The Palestinian people are of us, and we are of them. Throughout the long years of their tragedy, we alone have experienced their suffering under a downpour of sorrows and in the face of organized Zionist terrorism, which receives everything it needs from a false world claiming concern for civilization, defense of human rights, and concern for security, justice, and stability.

We do not declare solidarity with the Palestinians as another people. We declare solidarity with them because we and they are one. We have fought together in one trench, remained steadfast together on one front, and endured together what no other nation could endure. When we look at the world while trying to express its solidarity with the Palestinians, we see how hypocritical and false our world is, and how crimes and disasters abound in it.

In our Arab world, we have people who are more false and hypocritical and who are bigger liars than many others in our world regarding their claims of solidarity with the Palestinian people. We do not see any difference, for example, between the racism of the Kuwaiti regime and that of the Zionist regime in the way they treat the Palestinian people. This is because what the Kuwaitis did to the Palestinians is worse than what the Israelis did. It would be laughable, therefore, for the killers to declare their solidarity with the Palestinian tragedy and to talk about security, justice, and peace, when what they say is, in form and content, not less terrible than the terrorism they practiced against Palestinians in the streets of Palestine or on the soil of the gas station called Kuwait.

The Americans and British, as well as other false people, are like the Kuwaitis and Israelis in their double policies and stands. The people of Iraq are being slaughtered in the name of international legitimacy, and its innocent children and sick people are also being annihilated under the umbrella of this legitimacy. However, nothing has been done regarding this issue or regarding Palestinian rights and the resolutions issued concerning these rights over the decades that followed the usurpation of Palestine, and not even after a quarter of a century since the occupation of all of Palestine in 1967.

What we hope for from some brothers and all enemies, as well as from false friends, is not to show their solidarity with the Palestinian people this year, since it is enough for the Palestinian people to have by them those who are loyal and faithful and who reject every foreign occupation and every 30-state aggression. It is enough for the Palestinian people to have their stones which are purer than many people who have perishable property or who are deprived of noble allegiance. We in this arena will not say more than what King Hussayn said yesterday, the day before, and what he says daily, since the moment when the honor of allegiance wished us to stand in the Palestinian trench as soldiers of a nation which is not defeated by its sons or enemies, and fighters for a right that must be restored. We are certain of a coming victory that will wash clean all our sorrows, but that will not cleanse a single disgrace of those who have betrayed the Palestinians, the Iraqis, and the nation and stood with the enemy against milk for Arab babies and pills for Arab

patriots, as well as against the happiness of an old Arab old man who, in his last days, asks God—knowing that God will answer his prayers—to curse everyone who supported on the foreigner and turned his back on his great nation.

Amman Radio Assails 'Hireling' Kuwait Media

JN2911082592 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Excerpts] Last Monday's pan-Arab and comprehensive speech to the nation by His Majesty King Hussayn continues to interest various political, press, and other circles in Arab and world capitals. They applauded his majesty's pan-Arab outlook and the clear picture the speech painted of the current state of Arab affairs and the future of the Arab nation. [passage omitted]

Despite the outpouring of positive and truthful reactions to His Majesty King Hussayn's historic pan-Arab speech by various political and media circles in the Arab world and beyond, the hireling media organs in the sheykhdom of Kuwait are keeping up a hate campaign against the leadership, people, and democratic practices of Jordan in a bizarre determination to falsify facts and history and sully genuine Arab principles and values.

If the Gulf crisis and its inauspicious war that was triggered by the dubbaisi Al Sabah dynasty uncovered the fragility of their regime and their cowardice and exposed their collusion with foreign, imperialist forces to strike at the heart of the Arab nation and destroy its capabilities and loot its resources, at the same time, it came to establish the deep-rootedness and genuineness of the sons of the Arab nation who rejected that senseless war and refused to compromise the dignity, rights, and principles of their nation and showed how wide the gulf is between those who are attained with ill-gotten money and those who are rich in their Arabism and courage and the dignity of their nation.

The Al Sabah family has opted to join the camp of Arab isolationists and renegades, thus turning Kuwait into a foreign settlement whose ingredients of survival are basely outfitted with dollars and oil wells and refineries—an outpost raising a flag stained with pure Arab blood and stigmatized with the disgrace of an imported liberation. This is at a time when every Arab wished the rulers of Kuwait, who have been imposed on their people and nation, had used their brain—assuming they have one—to rebuild their bridges with their brothers and launch Kuwait onto a road leading to their Arab depth rather than plunge it into the lap of a Western alliance covering Arab resources and working to split Arab ranks.

The sheykhs of Kuwait, who abandoned their homeland and people and fled here, think that their military alliances and their begging protection from foreigners will ensure their security and stability. They also think that they will be immortalized on a land from which they will continue to draw milk, honey, and dollars. However, they are deluding themselves; the Arab land of Kuwait will continue to slough off traitors and schemers. The hysterical hatred eating their hearts will turn into fire to burn their consciences that have put up with humiliation, degradation, and failure. History will spare none, and peoples never forget.

Bank Involvement in Laundering Drug Money Denied

JN0212095592 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 2-8 Dec 92 pp 1, 4

[Text] A senior Jordanian banking source has denied the involvement of any Jordanian bank in laundering money coming from drugs or illegal commercial activities. The source affirmed that the strict rules set by the Central Bank of Jordan [CBJ] deter and preclude any such suspect operations.

Commenting on the strict measures taken by central banks in the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states in the wake of the involvement of several GCC banks in such activities, primarily the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, the source told AL-ASWAQ that Jordanian banking laws do not allow for absolute secrecy in their dealings as is the case in the banks of those countries. Jordanian banks, the source noted, do not accept registering bank accounts depending only on a number and insist on using the names of the account holders, after verifying the names.

The source added that the fact that there is no secrecy regarding accounts and deposits prevents any suspect operations and makes Jordanian banks dispense with the measures taken by the central banks in the Gulf states recently.

The source discounted the possibility of Jordanian banks laundering drug or suspect money, since this requires an international network and several branches in foreign countries. The source noted that only three out of 20 Jordanian banks have branches in foreign countries, ruling out any bad faith on the part of these banks in view of their worldwide good reputation and standing.

The source noted that CBJ rules prevent foreign currency loans, which makes it difficult for any party to make remittances in large amounts from outside or outside Jordan.

Central banks in several GCC states last week asked commercial banks and financial institutions to take a series of measures to put an end to the involvement of some banks in laundering drug money. The measures include identifying clients in special files, not opening accounts in false names, and verifying that those clients work directly for their accounts, especially with regard to financial establishments, which do not carry out any commercial or industrial activity or any other kind of commercial activity in the countries where their offices are registered.

Prime Minister Meets With Palestinian Negotiators

JN3011130992 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1300 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Text] Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir received at his office today the head of the Steering Committee of the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks, Mr. Fayzal al-Husayni, and Palestinian negotiator Mr. Sa'ib 'Uraygat.

Talks dealt with the peace negotiations and Jordanian-Palestinian coordination within efforts exerted to achieve a comprehensive and permanent peace.

Discussions also dealt with tomorrow's meeting in Jeddah of the Islamic foreign ministers.

Prince Hasan Returns From Working Visit to UK

JN2911000092 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn led those who received His Highness Crown Prince Hasan and Her Highness Princess Tharwat when they returned to Amman this evening from London at the end of a working visit to Britain that lasted several days. [passage omitted]

'New Stage' in U.S.-European Relations Seen

JN2911200092 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 29 Nov 92 pp 1, 19

[Editorial: "What After?"]

[Text] The Arabs and France have entrenched relations of cooperation which go beyond traditional limits in terms of their depth and breadth. Indeed, these relations have, in many cases, transcended the borders which are assumed to separate one friend from another or one brother from another. The late French President Charles de Gaulle laid the cornerstone for an edifice founded on trust and bravery. Other Arab leaders, foremost among them being His Majesty King Husayn, made a similar contribution toward establishing and protecting these relations amid difficult circumstances and developments.

Despite the French position during the Gulf crisis, which surprised us, we still see France as a free and independent state that is capable of being itself and serving as the true symbol of European independence. The French, along with the rest of Europe, have worked hard during recent decades to establish this independence amid the fierce struggle between Moscow and Washington aimed at sharing influence and imposing hegemony. They now realize the fact that Washington is the only one flexing its muscles and that it has become intellectually and politically blind, all of which necessitates a greater concern for the unity of Europe's position and requires a greater effort to crystallize this into an independent and dignified position that rejects all U.S. arrogance, hegemony, and conceit.

In light of the aforementioned, one can realize the importance of President Mitterrand's visit to the region. We have not lost our faith in an independent and clean European role toward global issues and those of this region. We also realize that the Europeans and, in particular, the French, have enough moral, cultural, and intellectual heritage to qualify that they play a more difficult role than that assumed by the United States. This is a role that requires the use of brains instead of muscle, conscience instead of arrogance. It also requires the use of intellect to serve mankind instead of deploying an arsenal to annihilate people. We consider President Mitterrand's visit an opportunity for France and for us to stand together, based on the fact that dignity and pride can only exist with a concern for independent decision-making and justice. Anything else would turn big and small countries alike into mere tools to be used by the U.S. regime, which has become known as the new world order.

We do not want to drown in optimism. However, we are looking forward to a new stage, not in Arab-European relations, but in European-U.S. relations. It is not true that the Gulf crisis and the aggression against the nation brought tragedy to us alone. We have lost weapons, buildings, and money. However, the European majority lost something even more valuable and more noble when it settled for an anti-Arab stand and joined an anti-Arab alliance for reasons of fear and an inability to put up a resistance, all of which has made Europe famous for defending its own national pride, security, and peace of mind.

French-Language Transmission Over Radio Taghin

JN2911144392 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1700 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] A French-language service started its broadcast over Radio Jordan. Minister of Information Mahmud al-Sharif and French Secretary of State for International Cultural Relations Catherine Tasca attended the opening of the transmission after signing an agreement on cooperation in the field of broadcasting.

According to the agreement, France will provide transmitting equipment and training programs.

'Aoun Supporters Held Arrested for Leaflets

NC0212183192 Paris AFP in English 1635 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] Beirut, Dec 2 (AFP) - Lebanese authorities have arrested 50 supporters of exiled Christian leader Michel 'Aoun for distributing leaflets critical of the Syrian-backed government, their lawyer said Wednesday.

Mohammed Mughrabi also told AFP that 10 of those behind bars started a hunger strike on Monday to protest their detention after circulating the leaflets to mark the country's independence day on November 22. But military prosecutor Nouri Lahhoud denied any prisoners were on hunger strike and said military police had detained only 11 'Aoun supporters last week "as part of investigations into a plot to undermine the Army."

"The distribution of leaflets was only part of this plot," Lahhoud said. "The investigation should be over in 48 hours after which the suspects will be charged, released or transferred to a civilian court."

Mughrabi argued the arrests were illegal. "These people were illegally arrested by the Army for expressing their opinions, which is neither a crime nor a misdemeanour in Lebanon."

The leaflets, of which AFP obtained a copy, charge the 1989 inter-Lebanese al-Ta'if agreement gave legitimacy to the "Syrian and Israeli occupation of Lebanon" and that "Syrian hegemony has since become more flagrant."

'Aoun has lived in exile in France since 1990. He opposed the Arab-brokered accord which ended Lebanon's civil war and fought a six-month "war of liberation" against Syrian forces in Lebanon before he was driven out.

Army Issues Statement on Arrests

NC0212185492 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Statement by the Lebanese Army Guidance Directorate; date not given]

[Text] In response to some statements that the Army has arrested some people, the Army Command would like to explain the following:

1. Freedom of media, which is guaranteed by the Constitution, allows everyone to express his views through printed, audio, and visual media. These freedoms are more protected in Lebanon than in major world democracies.

2. The use of pamphlets and the engagement in secret night activity against the state, its authority, and its security and political stability conflict with the current climate of freedoms. This type of activity is unjustified, especially considering the clear and free media at everybody's disposal.

3. Obtaining the approval of the competent judiciary and acting in accordance with the valid laws in Lebanon—laws that exist in all other world countries—the security services arrested a network of about 10 people who were engaging in financing and printing certain pamphlets inciting internal sedition and harming the state's stability. Those arrested are being interrogated in accordance with the law.

4. Propagating and spreading rumors about the circumstances of the apprehension and talking about hunger strike, mistreatment, or similar false allegations are only meant to mislead the public at the expense of their security and stability. The population has already given many sacrifices for this security and stability. This method will not prevent the security services from fully and comprehensively performing their duties.

5. Free media are open to everyone to express their political views. Anyone acting in the dark, therefore, must justify his methods. Those who escape from daylight to dark without justification are either conspirators or reckless. In either case, their evil against the people and the country must be deterred.

Bawyz on Complaints Against Hizbullah in South

NC0312121192 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Faris Bawyz will return from Jeddah today after attending the Islamic Conference Organization meetings on assistance to the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina. [passage omitted]

Bawyz said that the problem of spreading Lebanese sovereignty in the south is not with Hizbullah, but with the occupation and the continuing Israeli aggression. He said, however, that resisting the occupation should not be done on an independent basis. He stated the existence of some complaints about the activity of certain parties, including Hizbullah, in the south. He added: We do not keep quiet about all the actions that take place in the south. We often complain about some of them when they contradict the aspirations and strategy of the Lebanese state and do not fall within the framework of cooperation, even though they embody an honorable message. These parties might carry out actions that are wrong or adventurous, and that tactically, technically, or realistically contradict the desired objectives.

Radio Reports More Israeli-Resistance Skirmishes

NC0212222192 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] At dawn this morning, a resistance group attacked an Agent Antoine Lahd militia post on Sujud Hill with machine-gun and rocket fire.

The border militias' radio [reference to Voice of the South] admitted that the attack had taken place and

claimed that no injuries were reported. It added that Israeli artillery immediately shelled Iqlim al-Tuffah and the vicinity of western al-Biqa' with about 40 155-mm shells.

The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent in Sidon reported that the areas of al-Jabbur, Abu-Rashid, the hills of Mayadun, and Jabal al-Dabr came under artillery shelling from the occupation positions. This shelling caused huge material losses in property and agriculture.

A spokesman for the border militias admitted that a number of Katyusha rockets fell on the eastern sector of the border strip, but did not report any losses in life.

Villages Shelled; Mechanized Movements Observed

NC0112080492 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] The eastern and northern neighborhoods of Kafr Remman were shelled at 0830 today. The shelling destroyed three houses that belong to Muhammad, Ahmad, and Nimr Farhat, who miraculously escaped unharmed. The shelling was accompanied by wide-scale raking of the eastern neighborhoods of the village with large- and medium-caliber machine guns. The eastern neighborhoods of Kafr Tibnit were also raked with machine-gun fire at 0800 today.

Mechanized movements by the occupation forces were observed between al-Dahirah and 'Ali al-Tahir. When the occupation forces tried to advance, resistance fighters fired a number of shells at them.

India

Uttar Pradesh Government Issues Ayodhya Statement

BK0312161492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] The Uttar Pradesh government, in a press note issued today, said that no construction activities will take place on the acquired land in Ayodhya, and there will be no movement of construction machinery or material into it. But, the release said the kar seva [voluntary community service for temple construction], which does not violate the orders of the apex court, can be performed. It may be recalled that the Uttar Pradesh government had explained to the Supreme Court that the proposed kar seva in Ayodhya will only be symbolic and will not be allowed to be exploited for any construction activity. Addressing a press conference in New Delhi, the party vice president, Mr. Sunder Singh Bhandari, said that the Uttar Pradesh government has taken steps to maintain peace in Ayodhya, and there is no danger to the disputed structure.

[Delhi All India Radio Network in English at 1530 GMT on 2 December adds: "The center has clarified that the central paramilitary forces sent to Ayodhya recently have not been deployed there. An official spokesman said this evening that the paramilitary forces have been sent to Ayodhya after informing the Uttar Pradesh government of their movement. He said the home minister has already informed the state government that members of the paramilitary forces are mainly confined to their camps. Even when they move out for purchase of their daily requirements, they do so in groups, and their proper behavior is ensured."]

Minister Speaks in Lok Sabha on Ayodhya Issue

BK0312093092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] The government has sought cooperation of all political parties, organizations, civil groups in defusing the situation in Ayodhya. Making a statement in the Lok Sabha [lower house of parliament] today, the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, made a fervent appeal to all to extend their wholehearted support in strengthening the forces of democracy and secularism and to uphold the respect for judiciary and the rule of law. He sincerely hoped that the Uttar Pradesh government will abide by its assurances given to the Supreme Court in letter and spirit. He told the members that the matter is at a very delicate stage and should be left to be dealt with appropriately.

Mr. Chavan said reports indicate that the flow of kar sevaks [volunteers] into Ayodhya is continuing and nearly 40,000 of them have reached there by yesterday. Elaborate preparations have reportedly been made by the organizers of the kar seva [community service for temple construction] for the purpose. Informing the members that the counsel for the state government had assured the Supreme Court that BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leaders were fanning out to different places with a view to telling the kar sevaks that there will be no (construction) activity and kar seva will be confined to religious functions. The home minister said there are however reports to indicate that some leaders associated with the proposed kar seva are asserting their intentions to undertake construction activities.

Giving an elaborate account of the developments since the prime minister made a statement in both the houses in July last, Mr. Chavan said negotiations for finding an amicable settlement of the issue were recommenced. The prime minister held wide-ranging consultations with individuals and groups concerned with the dispute. Two meetings took place between the representatives of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad [VHP, World Hindu Council] and the All India Babri Masjid [Mosque] Action Committee, but the announcement of kar seva by the VHP before the third round seriously jeopardized the process of negotiations. Mr. Chavan said under a direction by the Supreme Court, the Center assured full assistance to the state government in dealing with the situation. It also assured to undertake such action to secure the enforcement of the court order.

The Center has asked the Uttar Pradesh government to take all necessary steps to ensure that Ayodhya developments do not lead to any situation of communal disturbances in the state. In a letter to the state chief minister, Mr. Kalyan Singh, today, the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, said no activity should be allowed which is contrary to the court orders or derogatory to judicial authority.

Referring to the stationing of paramilitary forces in Ayodhya, he said the Center's decision followed its assurance to the Supreme Court on the 23d of last month that it will render all necessary assistance to the state for enforcing the directions of the court. The home minister made it clear that the Center has the constitutional and legal rights to station or even deploy the paramilitary forces anywhere in the country in certain situations.

The Janata Dal-A has demanded that the Center should take necessary steps to ensure that the BJP and other organizations maintain peace on Sunday during the proposed kar seva. In a meeting of its leaders in New Delhi yesterday, the party also decided to hold a fast tomorrow at Rajghat to promote communal harmony.

The Congress-I is organizing a peace march at Faizabad in Uttar Pradesh tomorrow to create communal harmony and amity among different sections of the society. This was announced by the party general secretary, Mr. Nawal Kishore Sharma, in New Delhi today.

Muslims Flee Ayodhya as Tension Mounts

BK0312095092 Hong Kong AFP in English 0703 GMT 3 Dec 92

[By V.N. Arora]

[Text] AYODHYA, India, Dec 3 (AFP)—Muslim women and children began to flee this northern Indian town Thursday [3 December] as tension mounted over an explosive Hindu crusade to replace a mosque with a temple, residents said.

The Uttar Pradesh state government shut schools and colleges as tens of thousands of slogan-shouting Hindus roamed the streets ahead of Sunday's planned temple-building, which has been banned by the Supreme Court.

New Delhi ordered troops to be on the alert in Ayodhya where many of the 80,000 Hindus who have flocked to the town held rallies and meetings Thursday to vote that the temple would be built, with the use of force if necessary.

"Muslim followers of Rama will be spared and honoured," loudspeakers blared as residents said the Muslim exodus was almost complete with only 1,000 men from the minority community staying back to protect their homes and shops.

They said Muslim men began sending their families away after three Islamic graves near the disputed mosque site were vandalised overnight, triggering panic at the possibility of Hindu-Muslim rioting.

Hindu religious leaders carrying saffron flags rejoiced the few Muslims remaining in Ayodhya, which houses 4,000 Hindu and Muslim shrines, to join their temple-building campaign scheduled to continue for 18 days.

"Guns and bullets do not scare us... We Rama slaves will build the temple," the Hindus shouted as thousands of armed federal troops and police officers patrolled the town.

"The country is determined that the temple be built. The issue concerns the faith of millions of Hindus and is not a subject of the judiciary," said Vam Dev, convenor of the Ayodhya Temple Renovation Committee.

"Live like Hindus in India or pack your bags and go to Pakistan," said some banners amid growing fears that communal incidents here could trigger Hindu-Muslim rioting elsewhere in India.

Ayodhya's 5,000 Muslims lived in relative harmony with local Hindus until the temple-mosque row erupted in 1990, when 24 people died as police opened fire during an attempt by Hindus to tear down the crumbling Babri mosque.

Hindu crusaders say the 16th-century granite-and-limestone mosque was built after razing a temple to their lord Rama. They also claim the site as the birthplace of Rama, a mythological Hindu warrior-king. Muslims, India's largest religious minority, dispute the claims.

Hindus queued up near the shrine Thursday to pray before Rama idols placed inside the complex years ago, witnesses said.

"The situation in Ayodhya is worsening," said a message sent Thursday to Home Minister Shankarrao Chavan by the All India Babri Mosque Action Committee, formed by Muslims to counter the Hindu crusade.

"Members of the minority community are being forced to leave the city by the BJP-VHP combine," the Muslim SOS read. "Please take prompt action and save the lives and property of Uttar Pradesh Muslims."

The Bharatiya Janata Party (Indian People's Party, BJP), which administers Uttar Pradesh, backs the temple drive of the hawkish Vishwa Hindu Parishad (World Hindu Council, VHP) despite the Supreme Court ban on any construction on the mosque site.

Ayodhya bankers said local Muslims, mostly traders and shopkeepers, were withdrawing their money and leaving the town quietly.

"Hundreds of Muslims have taken out their money this morning," one said, adding that they were going to other districts to "wait out the Hindu storm."

Differences With U.S. on Nuclear Issue Noted

BK0112075992 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] India has called for developing a global nonproliferation regime through consensus. Replying to a question in the Rajya Sabha [upper house] today, the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, said that bilateral dialogues with a number of countries are underway to discuss these issues and narrow the differences in perceptions with a view to evolving an international consensus. The minister said there are policy differences between India and the U.S. in respect of the nonproliferation treaty, which are presently under discussion. He said India has consistently advocated a comprehensive ban on the testing of nuclear weapons. Government's consistent position has been to call for the total elimination of all nuclear weapons in a framework which is global and nondiscriminatory.

Bush Termed 'Imperial President' for Remarks

BK0212150992 Delhi PATRIOT in English 29 Nov 92 p 4

[Editorial: "What Bush told Rao"]

[Text] With a monarchical "we", President George Bush told the ambassador from New Delhi: "We applaud your (India's) progress so far (in continuing talks with Pakistan and China), but urge *you* to redouble your efforts to fully realize peace and sec.-ity in South Asia." Having disposed of what he had to say about what India should be doing in the region Mr. Bush raised his ministerial finger at Mr. S.S. Ray. The latter had said his piece on the U.S. worries about India (while presenting his credentials as the new Indian ambassador to America). Mr. Bush thundered: "In particular, I encourage you to look seriously at ways to affiliate yourself with the various

nonproliferation agreements that have won nearly universal acceptance." The lapse from the royal "we" to "I" is noteworthy. President-elect Bill Clinton has said that while foreign policy nuances of America may change from administration to administration, the U.S.'s national interests do not change. Is it therefore right to suggest that Mr. Bush's emphasis on two issues—reducing tensions in South Asia and nuclear proliferation—were carefully chiselled to distinguish a bipartisan concern from the other on which the views of Mr. Clinton might be somewhat different? Mr. Ray had recounted what all India was doing to normalise relations with Pakistan and the progress made in expanding cooperation with China. Mr. Bush, who played a major part in wooing China in the seventies for the West against the former USSR in the cold war, has a reservoir of goodwill in Beijing. Official China was unprepared for his defeat and took some time to send protocol good wishes to Mr. Clinton. Beijing would have preferred another term for him in office. Mr. Ray was right therefore to expand, in his report to Mr. Bush, on the efforts India was making to improve ties with China. This part elicited the outgoing president's approval. Bluntly, the president was not reassured by Mr. Ray's spiel on the NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty]. Our ambassador was at his persuasive best to show that the U.S. and Indian positions were nearly alike and the remaining slight divergence could be bridged by continuing bilateral talks. Mr. Bush was not impressed. Not anticipating how Mr. Clinton would express his views on this matter, the president decided to speak for himself and his administration. That is why the "I" in this sentence is appropriate—denoting a possible distinction between what he had to say and what his successor might say later. He did not touch on the points of appreciation Mr. Ray was at pains to stress. Mr. Bush disregarded these altogether. Equally peremptory was the U.S. president's directive that India must do more about the alleged human rights abuses in this country. The president put aside all Mr. Ray had said about the secession terrorists, who had the backing of foreign powers, were causing. He did not so much as mention terrorists' violations of human rights. The imperial president dismissed the argument with the cursory comment: "We continue to be concerned by reports of human rights abuses." Had he not read what his own officials had reported about the genesis of terrorism in India and how that led to horrid tragedies? Apparently Mr. Bush had made up his mind that India should be chided on the human rights issue and he did just that.

Paper Says Kerala Situation Nearing 'Flashpoint'

BK0112032592 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 28 Nov 92 p 8

[Editorial: "The Force of Governance"]

[Text] The conversion conflicts in the ruling Congress in Kerala are inexorably inching towards a flashpoint. With all the mediatory efforts having failed, effective intervention by the Congress High Command alone can possibly save the party and the ruling coalition it heads from collapse. For the moment, this possibility seems unduly distant with the Prime Minister and party President, Mr P. V. Narasimha Rao, and the senior leaders preoccupied with the Ayodhya controversy, the warring groups are well aware of the High Command's predicament. And yet far from going slow, they seem to be accelerating their campaign of mutual vilification to the point of no return. It is a measure of his desperation that Chief Minister, Mr K. Karunakaran, has now threatened to go to any length, including a possible recommendation to the Governor to dissolve the Assembly, should his adversaries persist with their campaign against him and his group. While he has subsequently disclaimed having hinted at such a course in the face of criticism from his own supporters, his admission to pressmen in Delhi on Monday [23 November] that it could nonetheless be one of the alternatives in the event of his being driven to the corner, is revealing.

The leaders of the Antony group and also the reformists cannot be unaware of the disadvantages of precipitating matters when the recent cyclone and flash floods have thrown the state into an unprecedented crisis. Without generous assistance from the Centre, it will be impossible for the state to get back to the recovery path in the near future. Ironically, the kind of cohesion and cooperation that ought to be palpable among the coalition partners in such an hour is conspicuous by their absence.

The harsh truth is that there has been no governance worth the name in the state for the last several months. The internecine quarrels have evidently freed the other coalition partners from the compulsions of joint accountability; each minister seems totally free to do whatever pleases him. The indecent hurry with which licences to run liquor bars were first granted and later withdrawn under public criticism provides a typical case of how viciously scarce laws come to be twisted to serve personal or political interests. Even the relief works in the wake of the recent floods have reportedly gone haywire in several parts owing to lack of political and administrative guidance. The communal situation is no less dangerous. The ramifications of the Ayodhya and the Mandal controversies cannot easily be contained in Kerala in view of the emergences of forces which have demonstrably proved their potential for engineering trouble even on flimsiest of excuses. There is an urgent need for strong corrective action which unfortunately cannot be expected of the present dispensation in power. Precisely for this reason, the Congress High Command must end the infighting one way or other and bring back some governance to the State.

Review of Defense Decision-Making Called For

BK0112053992 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 25 Nov 92 p 8

[Editorial: "Some progress at last"]

[Text] The mysterious nature of the decision-making process of the Ministry of Defence (MoD), has been commented upon by the Arun Singh Committee on Defence Expenditure, and lately, the Estimates Committee Report on the Ministry. Their suggestions, eminently justified, is that a serious overhaul of MoD's decision-making procedure is imperative, the sensitive being, above all, to human matters. The current ones are overwhelmed, a 'hostile race' as the Estimates Committee described them. The results is avoidable delays, and India having to pay, for example, Rs [rupees] 1,400 crore for 2 MiG-29s. There is no denying the need for another squadron of MiG-29s, but irrecoverable is the procrastination for which a far higher price has to be paid. The same decision, arrived at earlier, would have saved India considerable money. When talk is of better management of finances, such an example stands out as yet another indication that in times of change, nothing actually changes.

It is heartening to note the likelihood of India entering into joint production of the MiG-29. Today, the MiG-29 is amongst the best in the world; as an air-superiority fighter it can outperform any other in the sub-continent. Production in India will certainly ease some major worries of the Indian Air Force, and also save foreign exchange for the country. The long-term benefits of the programme, however, must be analysed fully. In all honesty, India was not fairly treated as regards the initial purchase of the MiG- 29. Avionics on the models sold to India were not of the desired quality, and considerable effort was required to have things set right. India must, therefore, ensure that production is also inclusive of the best systems that go into the aircraft. Ultimately any weapon system is only as good as the updates it is periodically put through. Updates on the MiG-29 have not been as thorough, in comparison to, for example, the Su-27.

India can still enter into a Su-27 contract. There is no aircraft capable of outperforming the Su-27, and India's decision not to purchase this outstanding machine is yet another of MoD's mysteries. When the costs of maintaining two squadrons of the Mirage 2000 are inordinately high, it is not unreasonable to suggest that they be replaced by Su-27s. India could sell its Mirages, and contract for a complete Su-27 package. The Su-27 has already been updated into the Su-35, and there is a reportedly naval version as well. The benefits of such an arrangement will be untold as far as military aviation in India is concerned. Decisions of such importance must be considered with a long-term perspective, and this has sadly been lacking in MoD. The question has now gone beyond merely injecting some speed into MoD's thinking process, it also involves decisions themselves. It is essential to have a dispassionate appraisal of the working of MoD, the longe being to infuse some rationale into its decisions.

Iran

U.S. Said Targeting Technology Transfer to Iran

NC0212173792 Tehran SALAM in Persian 23 Nov 92 p 12

[Ali Mazru's commentary: "What is The United States After?"]

[Text] The victory of the Islamic re-olution in Iran inflicted irrevocable blows on the illicit U.S. interests. Naturally this elicited the fury and rancor of the United States, shown in different ways on thousands of occasions and known in the U.S. lexicon as the "carrot and stick" policy.

The target of the latest U.S. propaganda is the "transfer of technology" to Iran and the concomitant hue and cry over the possibility of Iran strengthening militarily through the transfer of this technology. Such political hostility along with the long-standing political vendetta against Iran pursues two objectives:

1. By portraying Iran's military strength as powerful, attempts are being made to instill fear among Iran's neighbors, especially the littoral countries of the Persian Gulf, to drive them toward the U.S. embrace. This would motivate them to purchase more arms, which would revive the stagnating U.S. economy and fuel Iran's campaign to get nearer the Arab countries by maintaining animosity against Iran among them.

2. In the aftermath of the Islamic revolution victory, Iran changed the direction of its commercial transactions and even now its main trading partners are European and Asian countries. The United States has lost the Iranian market. Naturally, in light of the febrile state of the U.S. economy, this state of affairs is intolerable for the United States.

The United States cannot bear to accept that the market that until yesterday was its monopoly is now in the hands of its competitors. So it is leaving no stone unturned to the European and Asian countries, warning them against "transferring technology" to Iran. Undoubtedly, the United States is pressuring the European countries and Japan, motivated by commercial considerations and to persuade its rivals to share a part of the Iranian market with it.

3. [no published] In view of internal developments in the United States and the prevailing economic calamity there, that country requires new markets and is determined to gain them at any price. U.S. officials believe that by raising such a clamour, they can pressure Iran to open its doors to the U.S. economy.

These factors indicate the ellow U.S. approach to Iran. Despite its need for the Iranian market, the United States wants to retain its arrogant posture and coerce Iran to accept its stance. It is about time the U.S. officials realized that Iran will never succumb to such

ignominious moves in its political or economic decision-making, U.S. efforts to seek assistance from European governments and Japan in the past few years will not solve the problems of "this weak superpower." In the past few years, European governments and Japan have learned that if they have healthy commercial ties with Iran, vast benefits will accrue to them and these countries will obviously never relinquish their interests for the sake of the United States. The European countries and Japan see a multipolar world; clearly, economic power will play a decisive role in the future world order, so these countries will never succumb to the propaganda and blackmail of the United States.

West Seeks 'Rift' Between Iran, Others

NC0212152692 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 19 Nov 92 p 16

[Unattributed commentary: "Confronting Iran—Shifting Crisis Venue From Occupied Palestine to Persian Gulf"]

[Excerpts] Immediately following its victory, the Islamic revolution hoisted the banner of support for oppressed Palestine and its struggle against the usurping Zionist regime and its international allies. Despite having borne the brunt of an eight-year war and the inimical stances of the false proponents of the struggle with Israel, Iran took a step toward achieving its aspirations.

When the usurping Zionist regime and the United States realized this irreconcilable stance, they embarked upon various forms of action to rein in the revolution or eliminate it. These included a coup d'etat, support for secessionist elements, dealing blows to the economic system, practical efforts to create agitation and disruption in society, and imposing conditions of regional and international isolation on Iran. These are only a few examples.

When the imposed war ended and all these hostile measures against Iran failed, the Zionist regime and the United States initiated another ploy against the Islamic revolution. It aims to transfer the Arab-Israeli crisis to the Persian Gulf and transform it into a crisis between the Arabs and Iran. This is being implemented for the following reasons, including: expanding the scope of the Islamic revolution's confrontation with Zionism and the United States and their fear of the revolution spilling over geographical frontiers because of certain internal problems.

The United States and Zionism have realized that the Islamic revolution, which stands firm on the bedrock of Islam and is forging ahead for various reasons, has found a proper niche among Muslims. [passage omitted]

Yes, the sacred flames of this hallowed revolution have been ignited and the United States and Zionism and their regional and international supporters have again deluded themselves and entered the arena for another taste of defeat. They want to keep the center of Islamic inspiration and uprising engaged in conflicts to sap its concentrated energy.

Following the start of the compromising Middle East talks, the Islamic Republic of Iran and all other Islamic groups rose up in opposition. This opposition is so important for the Zionist regime and the United States that on conclusion of the recent bilateral talks, most of the Arabs told the Zionist regime's delegation led by Uri Lubrani that the Lebanese Hizballah in southern Lebanon were responsible for the failure of the talks. The United States insisted that one of the conditions for resuming ties with Iran was that Iran should accept the Arab-Israeli peace talks!

Yes, opposition to the Islamic revolution is a common factor among the Zionist regime and the United States and its regional supporters. That being so, efforts are being made to prevent this revolution from becoming powerful and to debilitate its energy by raising an outcry about every purchase of ordinary weapons by Iran. They seek to solve the problem for their own benefit by shifting the venue of the Arab-Israeli crisis to the Persian Gulf, closing the dossier of the oppressed Palestinians.

A glance at ordnance purchases by the regional countries, including the Zionist regime, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates, indicates that the Islamic Republic of Iran has the lowest level of defense expenditure, despite its geographical and other needs. The Zionist regime has the most advanced weapons and in the largest quantity. The United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait have signed defense purchase agreements, far exceeding their needs and requirements.

The aim of this propaganda charade is an arms embargo against Iran to prevent it from gaining access to arms for its legitimate defense needs and to boost arms sales to the regional countries to absorb petrodollars to resuscitate the crisis-ridden economy of the West, especially of the United States.

This plan also demands that an artificial rift be maintained between Iran and the regional countries so that relations can remain strained and the way may be paved for the greater military presence of the West and its sales of arms to the region's countries. This artificial rift between Iran and the regional countries will shift the venue of the Middle East crisis from the borders of occupied Palestine to the Persian Gulf. This will undermine the capability of the Muslims, who will be pitched against one another by foreign provocations, benefiting the United States and Zionism. [passage omitted]

President Rafsanjani Visits Yazd Province

LD2811100992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0730 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] Islamic Iran's President Hashemi-Rafsanjani arrived at Martyr Sadoqi Airport in Yazd this morning for a visit to the province of Yazd.

The representative of the supreme jurisconsult in Yazd province, as well as the governor general, the province's Majlis members, and local clerics and officials welcomed him at the airport. During welcoming ceremonies the child of a martyr presented flowers and the national anthem was played. Then President Hashemi-Rafsanjani inspected the guard of honor.

On arrival the president said that he is in Yazd to see the people, talk with provincial officials, and inspect the situation in the area. He will also meet families of the self-sacrificing people and talk to clerics. During his visit he will assess the resources and needs of the province.

The president said: Since we never managed to come to Yazd after the martyrdom of Ayatollah Sadoqi, we felt we were indebted to his soul and to Yazd. So the repayment of this debt is also one of the objectives of our visit.

In reply to a question on bringing water to Yazd to solve the water shortage problem, he stated: Fortunately, a decision has already been adopted on this, and the system has accepted it. It is in the overall interest of the system to channel water from other areas to this thirsty yet resourceful province.

He said that the preliminary stage for bringing water to Yazd has begun and the work has gone beyond the decision-making stage. God willing, the implementation will begin soon.

Foreign Reporters Invited To Visit Prisons

LD3011182592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Text] In the wake of the West's ballyhoo on the violation of human rights in Iranian prisons, the head of the state prisons and educational and support measures invited all domestic and foreign reporters to visit prisons in Iran. Lajevardi pointed out: In Iran, prisoners are treated in accordance with the Islamic regulations, which observe human rights in the best possible manner. According to a report of the Central News Unit from Tabriz, Lajevardi told reporters: The regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran decisively deals with criminals and economic, social, political, and security saboteurs in the country.

Referring to the treatment of prisoners in Western countries, the superficial supporters of human rights and their malicious propaganda, Lajevardi said: Evidences show that their words never correspond with their deeds. He added: Representatives of the human rights commission and domestic and foreign reporters can visit the situation of the prisoners in Iran.

Muslim States Should Offer Arms to Bosnians

LD0312123492 Tehran IRNA in English 0921 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 3, IRNA—In a commentary Thursday [3 December] on the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina the Persian daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said that the continuing Serbian aggression against Muslims in B-H is sufficient reason why the world's Muslim states should offer arms to Bosnians.

It said the U.N. Security Council resolution committing the Serbians to a cessation of hostilities against the Muslim people of B-H has not the least been observed by the Serbs. It added that the foreign ministers of the organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, would do good to sanction the formation of an international Muslim army and supply of weapons to Bosnians so that they may defend themselves against the invading Serbs.

The commentary also singled out Greece among the European governments which, it said, was offering oil to the Serbs to maintain them militarily against the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

It said the oil that was being offered by Greece to the Serbs came from the Muslim states, and recommended heretofore that the Islamic countries boycott Greece economically in protest against her passing of the Muslim nations' oil through to the Serbs.

The commentary observed that if the present hostilities against the Muslims in B-H are not checked once and for all it would set the precedence for other non-Muslim governments in Europe to wage wars against Muslims in other parts of Europe.

The article also said that OIC ministers would do good to also try to boycott other governments, and especially the United States, England, and France, which have supported the Serbs in their continuing atrocities against the B-H Muslims in various ways since the outbreak of the war against Muslims in that part of the world.

Regional Security Needs No 'Foreign Interventions'

NC0212132492 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 22 Nov 92 pp 10, 12

[M. Mollazadeh commentary: "Stance That Cannot Be Defended"]

[Excerpts] The Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] held a haphazard session and announced the stance of member countries' defense ministers. The session coincided with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas' visit to the Persian Gulf region.

Regrettably, France, which has ostensibly found itself in the ranks of the losers in the oil war, with the United States monopolizing and pillaging the wealth of the Arabs, has sent Monsieur Dumas to convince the

shaykhs to purchase some obsolete French weapons that are gathering dust in its stores. It would obviously be better for France if these weapons were stockpiled in Arab countries and France could extract some petrodollars instead. [passage omitted]

The French realize they have lost their market in Iraq and that it would be futile to seek a replacement in the Persian Gulf region. But really amazing is the stance of the GCC foreign ministers on the Iranian islands of Abu Musa and Greater and Lesser Tunb. Apart from Qatar, which did not participate in the session, the defense ministers seem to have been in hibernation and, just when the Abu Musa clamor subsided, they again adopted an unwarranted stance rather unexpectedly.

It is surprising why, in this distinctive set of circumstances, various opinions were propounded, but clearly this unwise stance was not adopted for the region's interests or for those of the littoral Persian Gulf states or as an independent stance. Had there been the motives, the stance could have been justified despite antagonism with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Arabs and the shaykhs' defense ministers know that the Iranian islands are not to be debated in their private sessions; this is not an issue to be taken lightly. The Arab defense ministers of the Persian Gulf countries have never found themselves in a situation whereby they can make such boastful claims. These words have been dictated to them by those in whose nostrils the smell of oil is like the heady perfume of petrodollars, a welcome opiate!

The main issue is that the West's ordnance industries are on the verge of bankruptcy and international events and the elimination of the former Soviet Union from the international balance of power have led to stagnating markets. Weapons have been manufactured and are gathering dust in their stores without any customers. [passage omitted]

Iran should remain vigilant and not fall prey to any ploys. The West wants to dispose of its weapon stocks and the Arabs have the money for them. They can afford to pay for the useless arms or at least those that are rarely used. Abu Musa and Greater and Lesser Tunb cannot be the property of the Arabs. The GCC defense ministers should realize this better than the arms merchants of Europe.

And we should not be fooled by outward appearances. Vigilance is necessary, but so is realism. The Muslim nations on the two sides of the Persian Gulf have realized the benefits of mutual cooperation for many years. But the Arab nations are different. The lack of steadfastness among them makes them feel they can only protect their power with foreign support, which is not forthcoming without strings attached.

We should try to motivate the Arabs to forge links with the Muslim nation of Iran on a normal and friendly basis and not permit any abuse of these relations. The current efforts to normalize relations with our Arab brothers is a positive step and should continue. The initial travails in the Abu Musa issue are behind us and the return of the teachers from the schools in Al-Sharjah is evidence of this statement. There are no grounds for controversy on Greater and Lesser Tunb, which are indisputably Iran's possessions. [passage omitted]

Persian Gulf security benefits everyone, even the outside world, who gets its fuel needs from here and benefits from its security. The area's boundaries are confirmed and had geographical changes been possible, the Persian Gulf war could have created them quickly. But everyone saw this was not the case.

It would be wise if the boundaries are officially recognized. The Islamic Republic of Iran wants to cooperate with the region's countries and seriously believes the regional countries can ensure regional security without foreign intervention. This is the only way to safeguard security and protect national interests.

Were the Arab shaykhs' defense ministers who congregated in Kuwait unable to comprehend these simple political realities? Hopefully this is not so and the stances adopted will be revised, because this would be to their benefit primarily.

Differences Seen in Ties With Saudi Arabia, Egypt

LD0212201992 Tehran IRNA in English 1223 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 2, IRNA—Iran is ready to forget past grievances, and maintain friendly and fraternal ties with the regional countries, the TEHRAN TIMES said here Wednesday.

The daily recalled Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal's remarks in Cairo Sunday that both Egypt and Saudi Arabia, realizing the significance of relations among neighboring countries, were hoping that their relations with Iran would be devoid of doubts and mistrust, and based on reciprocal reliance and respect.

The paper said it was first necessary to "demarcate" Iran's relations with Saudi Arabia from her ties with Egypt.

It referred to reasons which make important Tehran-Jeddah relations, i.e. geographical conditions of the region, powerful presence of the two countries in OPEC and the critical roles oil revenues played in the economies of the two countries. It added however that none of these reasons apply to Iran's relations with Egypt.

The paper said this should not be taken as meaning that relations with Egypt was considered insignificant for Iran, however, it was not correct to place Iran's relations with Saudi Arabia in the same category as her relations with Egypt, it added.

Imperial observers would readily admit that Iran never attempted to create tensions in its relations with the regional countries, the Islamic nations in particular, it said.

The paper referred to Tehran's "forgiving" nature in one of the obvious and undeniable examples of the regional countries during the eight years of Iraqi aggression against Iran as well as its decisions based on the firm, moral and cultural grounds, and in conclusion expressed Iran's readiness to establish friendly relations with the regional states.

Port of Abadan To Become Operational 11 Feb 1993

LD2511193192 Tehran IRNA in English 1413 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Text] Ahvaz (Khuzestan), Nov. 25, IRNA—The southern port of Abadan will become operational by February 11, once necessary credits and facilities are provided, head of the customs office Morteza Mohammad-Khan said here Tuesday [24 November].

He said that in the other port-city of Khorramshahr resumption of the custom activities is an inevitable need, and that this task would be undertaken after necessary expert works.

Meanwhile, Governor General of Khuzestan Province Mohammad Tabesh termed Khorramshahr as a very important port, and said resumption of the port city's custom activities would play a vital role in the local economic life offering job opportunities to many people.

"Our efforts in the reconstruction of the Abadan and Khorramshahr port cities are witnessed by the world," he added.

Khorramshahr which is being built from scrap was virtually destroyed by the Ba'athist invaders, while Abadan suffered extensive damage during the eight-year Iraqi aggression.

Government Considering Cable TV Networks

LD2511213992 Tehran IRNA in English 1659 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Text] Tabriz, East Azerbaijan Prov., Nov. 25, IRNA—Operation of the cable television networks throughout the country is under study, Deputy Culture and Islamic Guidance Minister Ezzatollah Zarghami announced here today.

He said the objective is to fill part of the people's leisure time with various cultural programs. The networks, if approved, will be run by private sector under the government's supervision, he added.

Terming video as an "efficient cultural tool", Zarghami said extensive studies are underway for the desirable use of the device, and that the framework of the regulations for legal use of video will be announced shortly.

"Over two million videos exist in the country presently, and an efficient plan is needed for their healthy use," Zarghami said.

He said one of the effective ways to encounter the cultural onslaught of the West is attraction of the advanced technology, involvement of the private sector in the cultural affairs, and submission of part of the cultural responsibilities of the executive power to the people.

Satellite Ground Station Becomes Operational

LD2611134492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0730 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] The satellite ground station of Zindasht in Salmas township has become operational. As a result, the [Iranian] villages of Aghoolagh, Zindasht, Shur Gol, and parts of Salmas township in West Azerbaijan can now receive our national television network.

Pakistan

Spokesman on India, Rights, Nuclear Issues

BK0212163892 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] Pakistan has advised its citizens and nationals to avoid traveling to India in view of the deaths of two Pakistanis and others at the hands of Indian security forces, as well as other cases of harassment and torture. This was announced by a Foreign Office spokesman at a briefing in Islamabad this afternoon. He also stated categorically that Pakistan had already provided all relevant information to the Indian Government regarding the two Pakistanis tortured to death by Indian security forces. He said the statement by the Indian official spokesman that India has asked Pakistan for providing details of these two Pakistanis is apparently meant to confuse the issue of the return of their bodies for reburial by their relatives in Pakistan. The spokesman again urged India to immediately return the bodies of the two Pakistanis.

Referring to the situation in occupied Kashmir, the spokesman said that India's recent refusal to allow the Amnesty International team to visit the territory demonstrates India's guilt over the grave violations of human rights there. The spokesman pointed out that at the end of Amnesty team's visit to India, its leader, Mr. E.N. Martin, had no option but to say that his organization continues to believe there are serious human rights violations in held Kashmir and those states of India where security regulations prevail.

The Foreign Office spokesman reiterated Pakistan's strong commitment to nuclear nonproliferation and said it does not possess any nuclear device or weapon. He referred to various initiatives taken by Pakistan, including the prime minister's proposal for a five-nation

conference. Replying to a question about an interview of American Senator Larry Pressler in which he claimed that Pakistan can manufacture nuclear weapons at a short notice, the spokesman categorically said Pakistan has been pursuing a program of development of nuclear energy and technology for peaceful purposes. It has no intentions to manufacture nuclear weapons. However, he made it clear that Pakistan cannot forego its option unilaterally and is ready to enter into any arrangement with India, which had detonated a nuclear device in 1974. This would help check nuclear proliferation in the region on equitable and nondiscriminatory basis.

UN Urged To Help End Genocide of Kashmiris

BK0312150492 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] Pakistan has called upon the United Nations to pressurize India to end the genocide of Muslims in occupied Kashmir. The call was made by Senator Khalilur Rahman, while speaking at the General Assembly Social Committee last night. He said India is pursuing a genocide campaign in occupied Kashmir to which the world community must respond, if it wishes to preserve peace and stability in the new era of international relations. The Pakistani delegate was responding to a speech made by the Indian delegate. Giving the genesis of the Kashmir issue, Pakistan's delegate refuted India's claim that Kashmir is its integral part and said the uprising in the held valley is indigenous.

Ambassador Meets U.S. Senator Over Letter

BK0312093392 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] In Washington, the Pakistani ambassador apprised U.S. Senator Pell of his government's policies. He said the Government of Pakistan is strongly determined to uphold the principles of democracy and ethical values and the opposition groups have full freedom of expression according to the country's recognized principles of freedom of writing and speech. The American Senator had sent a letter to the Pakistani prime minister, expressing concern over the arrest of some opposition leaders in Pakistan. The Pakistani ambassador said there is no ban on opposition gatherings and meetings in any part of the country. But, in the past 11 years, no permission was granted for any kind of political meetings and demonstrations in Islamabad to ensure law and order. This ban was in force even when the opposition leader was the prime minister.

A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad that the U.S. Senator's letter was apparently based on misunderstanding.

Bhutto, Sharif Rooms Campaigns

BK0312005792 Hong Kong AFP in English 0006 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] Multan, Pakistan, Dec 3 (AFP)—Police were asking public transport operators to stay off the roads Thursday in a move to restrict access to Multan as the government launched countermeasures against former premier Benazir Bhutto's opposition campaign, sources said.

A pro-government transporters' union leader here Wednesday called for a complete transport strike in the city on Thursday to oppose Bhutto's People's Democratic Alliance (PDA) 15-day-old drive for the ouster of President Nawaz Sharif and new elections in Pakistan.

"No vehicle should ply tomorrow (Thursday) in protest against the PDA's anti-national campaign," said Sheikh Zahoor Ahmed, president of the Wagon Owners' Association, in a statement.

Local administration officials said no attempt would be made to obstruct the opposition rally to be addressed here by Bhutto before starting the journey.

Bhutto, 38, starts Thursday the third phase of her campaign with a 500-kilometre (310 mile) whirlwind journey by road.

"Our campaign to get rid of a corrupt and inefficient government is gaining momentum," said Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, a senior colleague of Bhutto.

The opposition's opening offensive, an attempted mass march on Islamabad on November 18, was aborted when the security forces cracked down on PDA activists.

The PDA leadership followed it up with a 1,600 kilometre (1,000 mile) train ride from Karachi to Rawalpindi last week.

It claimed that thousands turned up at railway stations in Punjab, Sharif's power base, despite stringent preventative measures by the authorities.

Besides Bhutto, other top leaders of the PDA will participate in the third phase of the campaign in Punjab.

But Sharif has said the PDA's so-called long march against the government has fizzled out because the people are against "negative and agitational politics."

He has been travelling by air to various destinations in Punjab and other parts of Pakistan, addressing public rallies in support of his government.

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan on Monday criticized the opposition campaign, dampening PDA hopes that he might use his constitutional powers to dissolve the assemblies.

Khan had used the president's discretionary authority in August 1990 to end the 20-month rule of Bhutto for alleged corruption and mismanagement.

The PDA caravan is to reach the Punjabi capital Lahore on Saturday. Bhutto and her companions will address about a dozen public meetings on the way, making night stops at the towns of Burewala and Dipalpur.

PDA leader Farooq Leghari said the opposition did not believe in hooliganism, but it would not tolerate any police "brutality."

The opposition has alleged that thousands of PDA workers were arrested after the launching of the campaign, with many of them badly roughed up in police stations.

Some 150 activists have been released here and officials said no opposition members were currently under detention in Multan.

The authorities have also released detained opposition workers in other parts of the country, after the government lifted a ban on Bhutto's entry into Islamabad.

Sharif is due to address a public meeting at Shujabad near here on Saturday, with rallies also planned at other towns in southern Punjab to counter the opposition campaign.

President Accused of Bias Against PPP

BK0312104992 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 3 Dec 92 p 12

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 2—Iftikhar Gilani a prominent member of the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] and former Law Minister while taking a strong view of the President's comments on the prevailing political situation in the country wondered as to how the President, who in 1990 acted as a sole judge against the PPP government and dissolved the then National Assembly, could now call the nation that it were the people who should judge and decide about the fate of the present government.

Addressing a news conference, the former minister accused the President of being hand in glove with the Prime Minister and warned that if the President who had the sole authority under the constitution to save the situation from taking an irreversible turn, did not act then some body outside the constitution would have to act and that would mean the end of democratic system. He said if the government really feels that the present situation could lead to the imposition of Martial Law in the country, it can eliminate this possibility by accepting the minimum demands of the opposition which are release of all political detenus, withdrawal of all criminal cases and references filed against the top opposition leaders. He said if the government was really serious in saving the situation and eliminating the threat of Martial Law, it should accept these demands of the opposition. If this was done, the opposition was willing to open dialogue with it on the holding of national elections under an interim national government.

The former Law Minister expressed his serious concern over the interference of plain-clothes commandos in political meetings and their actions against political opponents. He said it was an internationally accepted code that the law enforcing man should be visibly identified. If these plain-clothes commandos were resisted by the people, it would lead to disastrous consequences.

Iftikhar Gilani termed the use of plain-clothes men as a fascist tendency and apprehended that if such tactics continued, it would lead the nation to the brink of a civil war.

He said the opposition was being advised (by the President) to settle things within the National Assembly. The Assembly, he said, had lost its significance because of the biased unconstitutional and partial attitude of the Speaker who was behaving like a party-man. The Speaker, he said was illegally using Rule 91 to kill motions moved by the opposition. He said a large number of such motions are being killed in the Speaker's Chamber without assigning any reason. He said the Speaker's consent, though was required for such motions, he had to assign solid reasons for not giving his consent.

Talking about the long march, he said the march would continue till the government was thrown out. "We have a right to come to Islamabad and we will come, the PPP leader remarked and said we know the button of panic of the government and we would press the next button at the appropriate time after Dec 15. The long march, he said was a constitutional right of the opposition and no one could deprive it from this right. Our march, he said, was peaceful and manifestation of the feelings of the people who are fed up with the present rulers.